

HALESOWEN CHRONICLE



Thursday, September 25, 2014

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A 'selfish few' face £100 car park fine

FINES of £100 for commuters who park badly at railway and Midland Metro stations are coming into force from Monday.

The sum will be reduced to £60 if paid within 14 days, but further charges will be incurred if it is not paid within 28 days. Motorists will have the right of appeal.

Transport authority Centro, which is responsible for free park and ride stations, said it had problems getting a replacement coach service through Stourbridge Junction car park on September 2 because of bad parking but there were issues across all its 59 sites. Warning notices are being put up and more than 20,000 leaflets distributed to users.

Councillor Roger Horton, Centro lead member for rail and Metro, said motorists parking correctly were suffering at the hands of a selfish few whose lack of consideration was also putting pedestrians at risk.

He said: "Incorrectly parked vehicles have seen other motorists blocked in for hours at a time, while pedestrians are put at risk because of cars parked on pavements. There are emergency service vehicles that may need to access the station being obstructed by badly parked cars. This cannot be allowed to continue."

Talent show at festival

ORGANISERS of this year's Brickhouse Festival in Rowley Regis are keeping their fingers crossed for good weather when the re-arranged event goes ahead on Sunday at Moor Lane Open Space, opposite Powke Lane Cemetery.

It will feature a car boot sale, zorb football, a fun fair, pig roast and musical entertainment. The event runs noon to 6pm and includes a talent competition at 4pm.

The event had to be called off in July due to torrential rain.

COLLEGE SCHEME PARKING FEARS

A £3 MILLION performing arts centre in Halesowen has been backed for approval by council officers — despite strong local opposition.

Councillors on Dudley Council's planning committee will be recommended to give Halesowen College the go-ahead for the centre.

Dozens of objections have been lodged against the plans for the centre by concerned residents living near the campus in Whittingham Road. They fear surrounding roads will become clogged with cars as they already suffer because of nuisance parking.

Revamp

But planning officers at Dudley Council have backed the scheme saying it will actually lead to less traffic because students will no longer have to leave the site to use facilities elsewhere in the town.

The performing arts centre is the latest stage of revamp work at the site which is seeing £20m invested in replacing outdated buildings. It will provide teaching rooms and rehearsal space for students on music, drama and dance courses.

The college has been struggling to provide enough space for the growing number of students taking performing arts courses. Some are currently having to travel off campus to use facilities at Benjamins, a function and conference hall, in the town centre.

Bosses said having on-site teaching rooms would cut costs for both students and the college. But a total of 44 objections have been lodged with the council.

Among those who have written to the council is Karen Baker, of Woodridge

By Heather Large

Road, who said: "There is a not enough parking to accommodate the college now. By extending the Whittingham Road campus, I believe this would cause even more parking issues."

"Visitors to the college now park all day with no consideration for people living near the college."

"Another resident said: 'There is no room for extra traffic, the road is dangerous as it is.'"

A report by Dudley Council planning officer, Helen Yorke, which will go before councillors next week, said: "The applicant has stated that there will be no increase in enrolment to the college and that the proposed development would reduce the number of vehicular trips associated with the college site by removing the necessity to transport students to off-site hired facilities."

As well as providing up to six classrooms, the centre will have a performance hall with a mezzanine level viewing gallery, which could also be used for art shows. It will be built on a piece of grassed land which is not currently used.

Principal Keith Bate said: "The proposed development will enhance this area of the campus significantly."

Record turnout for Black Country race



A record number of runners cross the start line of the 10k Black Country Road Race held in Halesowen

HUNDREDS took to the streets of Halesowen in the increasingly-popular Black Country Road Run.

The third such run in the town, which took place on Sunday and attracted a record number of participants to the 10-kilometre and a five-kilometre runs.

Young and old took part, with some choosing to don fancy dress.

Organiser and Rotarian Alan Bowler said: "We had 800 plus spread across the two runs, which is great. It was a fantastic day, everyone was saying they had a great run."

"It has grown year on year, we had

around 460 in the first event and around 600 last year," Mr Bowler added.

Among the masses making their way around the town on the run was famous fundraiser 'Blind Dave' Healey, from West Bromwich, who was raising money for national diabetes charity JDRF by taking part in the fun run, and also Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris.

Fundraising teams were also running, such as those from children's charity Barnardo's and Sunfield Children's Home in Clent, to raise much-needed funds.

The 'fun' five-kilometre run was entered by children and their families, and those looking for a slightly less taxing challenge, while the 10-kilometre version was reserved for the more serious runners.

Mr Bowler, who is hoping the event will have raised in excess of £20,000 for the various causes, added: "It's created a great platform to get runners in and raise money."

"There's a whole community getting involved in this."

The date has already been set for next year's event, to take place on July 5.

Jobs lost as phone stores are to close

SCORES of Phones 4u workers across the region have lost their jobs.

Administrators for the collapsed retail chain announced they were shutting 362 stores and axing 1,700 posts nationwide.

Phones 4u branches are being closed at Merry Hill, the New Square shopping centre at West Bromwich and across Birmingham.

Although mobile network operators EE and Vodafone have snapped up 200 stores, saving 1,250 jobs, administrators from PricewaterhouseCoopers have said there is no chance of saving the rest of the business.

Although 720 people are being kept on to help wind the business down, a1,679 have now been made redundant with the final batch of closures. Among those closing are the two branches at Merry Hill and others in Hagley Street in Halesowen, Dudley High Street, and in Birmingham city centre, Solihull and Shirley.

Phones 4u went into administration after EE's decision not to renew its supply contract.

Phones 4u had an annual turnover of £1 billion, with more than 700 stores and a total of 5,596 employees. But the firm collapsed as EE and Vodafone pulled out of long-standing deals to sell devices through the retailer.

Fire station demolition

DEMOLITION plans for a Black Country fire station have been approved.

Developer Horgan Homes & Developments Ltd had submitted proposals to knock down Halesowen Fire Station. The firm has already been granted permission to build 14 homes on the site.

Now it will flatten the old station and training tower off Hagley Road. Money from the sale went towards a £3 million replacement station in Cradley Heath.

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Have you got a story or an event you want covered? The Chronicle and Express & Star have a team of reporters covering Halesowen who can help:

Heather Large: 01384 353203
heather.large@expressandstar.co.uk
Alex Ross: 01384 353207
alex-ross@expressandstar.co.uk
Andrew Turton: 01384 353202
andrew.turton@expressandstar.co.uk
Lee Watton: 01384 353230
lee.watton@expressandstar.co.uk
Tom Mason: 01902 319550
tom.mason@expressandstar.co.uk
Katy-Rose Meaney: 01384 353201
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Sports:
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Photographic
 Tel: John Sambrooks 01902 319431

Advertising
Nicky Cope
 Tel: 01902 319753
 E-mail: n.cope@expressandstar.co.uk

Motoring:
Liz Barratt
 Tel: 01384 353244
 E-mail: liz.barratt@expressandstar.co.uk

Distribution:
Paul Jones
 Tel: 01902 319990
 E-mail: p.jones@expressandstar.co.uk

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Duke of York in visit to E&S offices



Five apprentices join the E&S

THE Duke of York Prince Andrew was due to visit the Express & Star's Wolverhampton headquarters this week to give his backing to the Ladder for the Black Country campaign.

His Royal Highness is patron of the scheme encouraging businesses to take on apprenticeships to solve high levels of youth unemployment.

The campaign, launched in the Express & Star last week, is off to a flying start with 80 apprenticeships created

on the first day alone. And many other firms are now in talks with the campaign after a public launch at the Black Country Chamber of Commerce's annual exhibition.

The Duke will meet with young people already taking their first steps on the job ladder. The Express & Star has joined forces with the Vine Trust, Performance Through People, and the Black Country Chamber of Commerce to help young people.



Visit - Prince Andrew

Firms' rush to help young is just the job

By Rob Gollidge

FIRMS are queuing up to back the Ladder for the Black Country scheme to create new apprenticeships after the campaign's public launch.

Scores of business leaders from across the region got their first taste of the scheme at the Black Country Chamber of Commerce's annual exhibition at a packed Wolverhampton Racecourse.

Backed by the Duke of York Prince Andrew, the Express & Star has teamed up with the Vine Trust, a charity that is already helping to get young people into work, to create new apprenticeships.

Training provider Performance Through People (PTP), the Black Country Chamber of Commerce, and Ikea Wednesbury are also leading partners. At the time of going to press there had been 107 apprenticeship enquiries and 18 company enquiries.

Response

The newspaper itself has taken on five new apprentice journalists. Editor Keith Harrison said: "The Express & Star is proud to head up the Ladder for the Black Country, to drive home the message that apprenticeships work."

Campaign partner Kevin Davis, chief executive of the Vine Trust, gave an introductory speech at the launch, urging businesses to work together and get on board. Eighty apprenticeships have already been pledged by Accord Group, Walsall Housing Group, Ikea, and the Express & Star.

Ladder for the Black Country partner Gill Durkin, business development director for Performance Through People, said: "There has been an excellent response and we have had interest from organisations who want to get involved in all sorts of ways."

"We have had plenty of busi-



Plenty of interest at the launch of the scheme at the exhibition



Kevin Davis of the Vine Trust



The team behind the Ladder for the Black Country campaign at the launch

nesses sign up - it has been a real success. Once we sit down and talk with some of the companies we will know how many overall the event has created. But the pledges we have already received is fantastic."

Margaret Corneby, chief executive of the Black Country Chamber of Commerce, said: "Apprenticeships have had their ups and downs, especially with employers, but I think there is an awful lot of good work and some very good success stories to inspire young people."

"The Ladder for the Black Country is not about all those companies that already have apprenticeships,

it is about encouraging all those businesses that have never thought about them," she added. "There are a lot of companies out there who think it is too much paperwork or time to take on an apprentice."

"But what the Ladder for the Black Country has done has created a clearing centre - making it that much easier."

Ninder Johal, president of the Black Country Chamber of Commerce and member of the Local Enterprise Partnership, said the Black Country needed to close a skills gap.

The number of young people out of work in the Black Country is the

highest in the country, with more than 8,000 18 to 24-year-olds in the dole queues each week.

Official figures show youth unemployment in the Black Country is more than double the national average, with Wolverhampton having the longest dole queues in England. Sandwell, Walsall and Dudley also all feature in the top 12 youth unemployment blackspots.

A website and call centre has been set up by PTP. Both young people and businesses can call the Ladder for Black Country hotline on 03332 409 699, or go to the website ladderfortheblackcountry.co.uk

Bus death man was looking other way

A GRANDFATHER who died after being hit by a bus stepped out in front of the moving vehicle while looking in the other direction

Michael Wilkinson walked out in front of the single-deck bus about a second before being struck at the junction of King Street and Flood Street in Dudley.

The 69-year-old, of Highfield Road, Kates Hill, suffered serious injuries and died the following day at Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

PC Paul Robbins, a collision investigator, told the inquest in Smethwick that there were five cameras on the bus which recorded the accident near the entrance of the Churchill Shopping Centre on March 24.

He said the traffic light at the junction was showing green for the bus, which was moving at between 15 and 16mph. The speed limit on the road is 20mph.

The officer said Mr Wilkinson stepped out at a crossing at the junction. He added: "It shows him looking to his left, away from the bus. The last image of the man still shows him looking to his left. He was knocked off his feet."

Assistant coroner Zafar Siddique concluded he died as a result of the collision.

Rider thrown from machine

A MOTORCYCLIST was seriously injured after being thrown 20ft from his three-wheeled bike in a crash with a bin lorry in Dudley.

David Clarke was rushed to Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham following the accident at the junction of Stourbridge Road and Wellington Road last week. He suffered a head injury and a suspected fractured pelvis.

Police closed Stourbridge Road for five hours after the crash for investigation and to recover the two vehicles.

The lorry driver was not injured.

Fair for children

PREPARATIONS are under way for an autumn fair in Sedgley in aid of a children's charity.

The event on Saturday, October 4, at Sedgley parish hall in Vicar Street will raise money for the Children's Society. It is free admission and is on from 11am to 2pm.

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Councillor is to step down in the spring

A LONG-SERVING councillor and former jewellery manufacturer has announced plans to step down at next year's council elections.

Halesowen councillor Bob James, a ward member for Belle Vale since 2000, will bring the curtain down on his political career in the spring.

The 68-year-old, of Hamilton Avenue, Hasbury, said he was not seeking re-election to Dudley Council due to health reasons.

During his time with the authority, the Conservative councillor has served as the vice-chairman of the planning committee and also as shadow housing spokesman.

Councillor James said he was proud that his work has helped his constituents, particularly by serving on the Halesowen housing area panel.

"It is all about being able to help individuals who come to you and getting things done for them," he said. "I've really enjoyed my time on the council and have made some good friends across the political divide."

Mr James established his own jewellery manufacturing factory in 1970 in Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter.

Landmark for new flats

A MULTI-MILLION pound transformation of a deserted office block was put on view to the public for the first time this week.

Developer Seven Capital has started work converting the former Point North at the Waterfront, Brierley Hill, into 181 flats. The company says 30 percent of the apartments have already sold about 30 per cent of the apartments.

A launch party for interested buyers was held at the site, now called The Landmark, and open weekends will be held at the former HQ for insurers Egg.

Hotel is to open

A £9.5 million hotel and pub restaurant will open in Stourbridge on December 1, it has been announced.

Work is progressing on building the Premier Inn and Beefeater pub in Birmingham Street.

The 80-bedroom hotel will create 20 jobs.

Elderly 'trapped' after bus service removed

ELDERLY passengers say they feel 'trapped' after a bus service was removed as part of an overhaul of routes in Dudley and Sandwell.

More than 100 people packed into a church hall last week to raise their concerns over the axing of the 297 service by National Express.

The service, which ran through Old Hill and Cradley Heath to Russells Hall Hospital, was ended in the summer after a fall in passenger numbers and reliability issues.

The 297 had ran down Station Road and served those in the Lodgefield estate. At the meeting in Old Hill's Our Lady of Lourdes Church, residents vented their frustration at company representative Jack Kelly.

Vulnerable

Marcia Harris, of Sherbourne Road, was there on behalf of elderly neighbours. She said: "It's for the most vulnerable that we are fighting. They should be thinking about the needs of the community."

Others complained that there is now no direct bus route to the hospital and claimed that they were not consulted properly before the route was discontinued.

Some from Coppice Lane in Quarry Bank explained that they now cannot get directly to Cradley Heath railway station.

National Express replaced the 297 with two separate services as it said the length of the 297 route was making it unreliable.

Since the service was removed more than 600 names have been gathered on a petition calling for its reinstatement.

Stephanie Peacock, Labour candidate for Halesowen and Rowley Regis, said: "There's no direct bus from anywhere in the constituency to Russells Hall, and that's unacceptable."

Mr Kelly said he could not make any promises but would take their concerns to bosses at National Express.

He added: "I'm going to take my notes, speak to the guys, and try to get to the point where I can come back with good news."

Mechanic died underneath his car in a tragic accident

AN ENGINEER who was working on his car died when he accidentally pulled the vehicle on top of him, an inquest heard.

Stephen Millington, aged 53, from Halesowen, was underneath his Alfa Romeo at premises in Quarry Bank where he worked part-time as a mechanic.

Mr Millington's friend Paul Bate, who shared the workshop with him, found him underneath the car on October 11, last year.

Mr Bate said: "He was working on the roll bar and it's very close to the sub frame so he had to take that off. There was a 3ft bar by him so what I think happened was he was using the bar to pull it and it fell on top of him."

Alone

Mr Bate said Mr Millington, of Hanley Close, would often rush his work as he juggled working as a mechanic with his full-time job as a hospital engineer.

He added: "The day before he had been there alone to work on his car and was going to his caravan for the night before picking up a car in Bewdley for a MOT."

"I got there about 9.15am and the gates were unlocked, but I was expecting to see a Mondeo there, not his car."

"I could see his legs sticking out from under the car. I jacked it up straight away and then went to the motorbike shop next door to call an ambulance."

Jamie Davies, an inspector from the Health and Safety Executive, said Mr Millington was carrying out the work on uneven ground.

By Jon Pritchard

He said: "The ground was sloped to the side and it was a combination of soft and hard standing."

Robin Balmain, senior coroner for the Black Country, said: "He was using a bar to carry out the work on the subframe by pulling it, and was pulling the car off the stands."

He added: "He was a hard-working man always running around but unfortunately the way he was working wasn't very safe. It seems to me that what Mr Bate said was right."

He said the medical cause of Mr Millington's death was asphyxia after being trapped under a car and recorded a conclusion that his death was an accident.

Louise Peters, Mr Millington's step-daughter, said: "He was a hard working man and just wanted the best for everybody."

Community litter pick event

RESIDENTS are invited to take part in a community litter picking event to help brighten up a corner of Halesowen.

People can attend the session in Shell Corner on Sunday from 2.30pm.

The event has been organised by the Shell Corner Partnership which is working on projects to improve the area.

Those wanting to take part are asked to meet at the junction of Maple Road and Long Lane.



Time for a selfie — family fun as the Walk for Dreams event starts at Himley Hall

Walkers making dreams a reality

THEY came in fancy dress, fluorescent legwarmers, as superheroes and fairytale characters — and they had one goal in mind.

More than 1,000 people walked from Himley Hall to Wolverhampton Racecourse to raise up to £50,000 for charity on Sunday.

Wolves legends Steve Bull, Jody Craddock and Don Goodman were on hand to show their support for the hundreds taking part in the Walk for Dreams event.

Organised by Wolverhampton-based Promise Dreams, the event saw crowds including tributes to Superman, Snow White, nuns and the Jamaican bobsleigh team, trek the ten mile route via Mileux.

Promise Dreams was set up 12 years ago to help terminally-ill children and their families by granting a wish, with the £2.5 million raised so far going to help more than 2,400 families.

Co-founder and Wolverhampton businessman Suresh Bawasaid: "More than 1,000 people have registered and fundraised for the event. The day is a family day and is about having fun, we had lovely weather for it. Every pound that the walkers raise will go direct to help the children."

NEWS IN BRIEF

£25k facelift hall ready for relaunch

A £25,000 revamp of Dudley Town Hall has been completed. Dressing rooms have been transformed and the St James's Road venue also has new carpets and has been redecorated.

To celebrate the relaunch the council will hold a tea dance today at 11am. Councillor Hilary Bills said: "I'm sure the regular tea dancers will especially appreciate work to the floor."

One of the first to experience the improvements will be comedian John Bishop, who has sold out his show at the hall on October 3.

New operator for council care home

A CARE home in Kingswinford will be transferred to new operators within weeks.

More than 5,000 signed a petition to save New Bradley Hall after plans to axe the home surfaced.

Dudley Council did make a U-turn on that decision but pressed ahead with plans to install a new operator — the Blackheath-based Black Country Housing Group — saying the authority could no longer afford to run the home in Compton Drive.

£200k cemetery to aid burial shortage

WORK on a £200,000 cemetery in Dudley to tackle the shortage of burial space in the borough will start this month.

Dudley Council has earmarked a section of land in Cleve Road, opposite the existing Dudley Cemetery. The current cemetery has 12 months of burial space left. The new site will have enough space to last over 20 years and cater for all religious needs.

Councillor is to lead park group

A NEW chairman for a park voluntary group has been appointed after helping lead a revamp of King George V Park in Wordsley.

Councillor Derrick Hemmingsley was appointed chairman of the Friends of Wordsley Park group after previous chairman Chris Enwerem announced he was leaving the area to train to become a vicar.

Education centre

A TUITION centre for children has opened in Stourbridge, creating 20 jobs. Explore Learning is the final shop to open at the Crown Shopping Centre. It will provide maths and English tuition.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

PUZZLED why the United States has kept well out of Russia's slow-motion invasion of Ukraine? A clue came this week when Nasa announced it had chosen two private spacecraft to fly its crews to the International Space Station. This is a reminder that, since the withdrawal of the Shuttles, the US has had to rely on Russian rockets to get into space. If you're going anywhere important it's a golden rule that you must never fall out with the driver.

A REPORT reveals that thousands of customers tell lies to get car insurance. Some claim they have no convictions, others claim to be living at a false address. But if insurance customers are dodgy, what about insurance companies? I have just been to France, clutching a travel-insurance policy which included the fact that I had high blood pressure. But it also excluded any claims from customers undergoing medical tests or waiting for the results of tests. So tell me — how can anyone know they have high blood pressure without tests? Once diagnosed with high blood pressure you are, by definition, in for a lifetime of tests.

JOAO Magueijo is a Portuguese academic who has lived in Britain for more than 20 years and just written a book (sadly not yet translated from Portuguese) about those frightful Brits. He says we are a bunch of violent, sex-mad, lardarse alcoholics with revolting personal hygiene, riddled with self-destructive xenophobia and addicted to drinking "hot, dirty water," or tea, as we call it. So far, so good. Sadly, Magueijo spoils the effect by insisting his book is all tongue-in-cheek and he actually loves Britain and the Brits. Curious. For a moment there, he seemed to be rather close to the truth.

AT Calais the port is surrounded by high steel fences. Two pathetic shredded strips of cloth hang from the razor wire, fluttering in the breeze and marking the place where some would-be migrant's dreams came to an end. At the coach park by the wine warehouse, half-hidden in the trees, groups of young Africans stalk like wolves, looking for any unguarded vehicle. The lottery of life is as unfair as ever.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Neighbouring councils in row over benefits

A COUNCIL boss in Sandwell has launched a stinging attack on Dudley Council for 'dumping' people in the neighbouring borough.

Finance chief Councillor Steve Eling hit out at Dudley after a High Court ruling that judged Sandwell's scheme to clamp down on 'benefits tourism' was illegal. Sandwell Council implemented a two-year residency requirement on those wanting reductions to their council tax bills, after Government cut council tax benefit.

But the move was ruled to be illegal and discriminatory by a High Court judge and left Sandwell with a £40,000 legal bill.

Hostel

It was revealed Dudley Council had been temporarily housing 10 vulnerable women in a hostel in Blackheath but was forced to pay £2,604.77 to Sandwell in council tax, as the women could not get a reduction in their bills due to the residency rule.

Sandwell may now have to offer reductions to such people, which could mean a rise in council tax bills for other residents.

Councillor Eling said: "We have found cases of vulnerable people being dumped by London boroughs in our area without any kind of support but we do not expect it to be done by our neighbours.

"The court case was about three of these women who were placed in Sandwell

By Adam Grinsell

by Dudley Council, and we forced Dudley to pick up the bills. We asked Dudley Council to tell the court that we had required them to carry out their duties in relation to these women, including meeting costs. But they refused to tell the court what happened.

"Had Dudley Council told the court about this then the outcome of the case might have been very different."

Dudley Council leader Councillor David Sparks said: "In view of the importance of the judgement I have asked for a review of the procedure."

Sandwell Council launched the residency requirement as it wanted to prevent 'benefit tourism', claiming people from the south could head to the borough to take advantage of cheaper housing.

Sinead joins the Jersey Boys



The Jersey Boys and Halesowen actress Sinead Long

A STYLISH performance from the east of Jersey Boys launched the Birmingham leg of the hit musical's UK tour.

The quartet playing Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons took to the stage at The Jam House to run through a medley of the band's 1960s and 70s hits.

Jersey Boys follows the story of the band from the mean streets of New Jersey to international fame.

The tour features local talent, including former Halesowen schoolgirl Sinead Long.

Now 24, Sinead, who went to Our Lady and St Kenelm Primary and Hagley RC High School, plays more than 10 roles in the show and is looking forward to being back home for the festive period as the show is at the city's New Alexandra Theatre from December 9 until January 4.

She said: "I am so lucky to have Christmas and New Year at home, because one thing about touring is sometimes we don't feel like we have a base, so I am lucky to have a whole month with my family."

Security to be stepped up after school fire

SECURITY will be stepped up at a derelict school in Blackheath in a bid to stop further arson attacks.

A blaze ripped through the former Holt Farm Primary School earlier this month and police have confirmed it was started intentionally.

The 105-year-old building has been empty since 2006 and residents say it has become a regular target for vandals.

Destroyed

Part of the roof was destroyed by fire which took more than two hours to extinguish. Flames and huge plumes of black smoke were visible for miles around.

Now Dudley Council have promised to increase security around the site to keep vandals out.

Councillor Rachel Harris, cabinet member responsible for legal and property, said: "The site belongs to the council and we are in talks with a number of developers over the future of the area, which have so far been very positive.

"In the meantime, we are assessing the extent of the damage caused by the fire and looking at ways to improve security to help prevent further incidents.

"We also ask people to be vigilant and report any problems to the police immediately."

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DUDLEY HOME IMPROVEMENT SERVICE

Housing issues on agenda at meetings

PEOPLE can find out more about their communities and air their views during a series of public meetings.

Dudley Council has announced details of the latest round of tenants and residents association meetings in the borough.

The groups discuss many issues relating to their estates and discuss ideas of how they can help to make improvements.

Members of the Tanhouse group hold their annual general meeting on Thursday, October 2, at Chaucer House in Severn Road, Halesowen, at 7pm.

In Dudley, the Holly Hall TRA holds its meeting also on October 7 at Woodside Community Centre, in Highgate Road, at 7pm. The Darby End group will hold its annual general meeting the following day at Cole Street Methodist Church from 6pm. Dunns Bank TRA will hold a meeting on the same day at the Scout Hut in Bobs Coppice Walk at 7pm.

Two meetings will be taking place on October 14. The Saltwells TRA meet at Dudley Wood Learning Centre from 7pm and the Bowling Green group meet at Saltwells Education Development Centre, Bowling Green Road, from 7.30pm.

Call (01384) 815168 to ensure the meeting is still taking place, as they may be subject to change.

Scheme to help young people move out of home

DUDLEY Council is drawing up a scheme to help young people struggling to buy or rent their own home.

Dudley Council is working on the scheme after revealing 4,115 young people are being forced to stay with their parents when they would prefer their own home, because of a shortage of suitable housing.

Housing bosses say one solution to the problem is to provide a shared housing scheme to bring groups of young people under one roof, giving them the chance to live independently.

The council is already working with Midland Heart on a £5.7million plan to redevelop the Gibbs Road House hostel, making way for new 58-bed supported accommodation scheme.

The scheme will open next year and provide a place to stay for people aged between 18 and 44.

There is also support for young people looking for housing from Churches Housing Association of Dudley and District and the Black Country Housing Group.

A supported lodging scheme for people aged between 16 and 24 is run by the Black Country YMCA.

In a report to councillors, Andrea Pope-Smith, director of adult community and housing services, said: "There are no easy answers to addressing the

By Andrew Turton

housing issues of young people as currently there is great demand for smaller social housing property types across a range of age groups. Some of this pressure can be attributed to welfare reform impacts."

"We are actively seeking opportunities to increase the provision of social housing in the borough by building more council homes."

Council bosses are already looking at ways to widen the type and size of houses built in the borough to bring more variety to the market, especially for first time buyers, those with bigger families and people wanting to downsize.

The authority is implementing a new housing strategy in a bid to tackle the problem by 2016 after some families claim the spare room subsidy scheme, known as the 'bedroom tax', has left them struggling.

Sneaky Peaky at red carpet premiere



Broad Street premiere - Charlotte Riley, Steven Knight, Cillian Murphy, Helen McCrory and Joe Cole

HUNDREDS turned out to cheer on stars at the world premiere of the second series of Brummie gangster epic Peaky Blinders, as its director revealed he wants to open a film studio in the Midlands.

Speaking on the red carpet at the glittering event at Cineworld on Broad Street, acclaimed writer-director Stephen Knight, who hails from Streetly, said too much talent in the region was being overlooked.

"It's silly this place is not featured

more - it's an empty vessel as far as film and TV is concerned. I want to change that," he said.

The 55-year-old was happy his main actors opted to come to Birmingham, instead of London for the gala preview of the second series, which starts on BBC2 next month.

He also spoke up for the city's much mocked accent. "I think we should liberate the accent from what most people think about it," he said.

Many of the fans were in signature

peaked caps as they cheered the actors as they arrived on the red carpet.

Irish actor Cillian Murphy, who plays the lead role of Tommy Shelby, thanked the people of Birmingham for being 'so forgiving' of his Brummie accent. He also hailed The Black Country Museum in Dudley, where many of the scenes were filmed, as 'a wonderful location'.

The second series sees the Shelby family attempt to expand their crime empire into London during the 1920s.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Free texts in bid to save NHS time

MORE than 2,500 appointments are missed by patients at Dudley's hospitals every month.

A new text reminder service has been launched to help reduce the number of missed out-patient appointments and keep waiting times down for other patients.

Bosses at Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, which runs Russells Hall Hospital, the Guest Out-patient Centres in Dudley and Stourbridge said 2,300 hours of clinic time was lost due to patients not attending appointments during April, May and June this year.

The text reminders will contain the date and time of the appointment as well as the location and name of the clinician that the patient is due to see.

Better access to water events

A WATER sports centre has opened changing facilities for disabled sports people thanks to a donation.

Dudley Water Sports, based at Lodge Farm Reservoir, Highbridge Road, Netherton, had the two wet rooms built last month.

They were provided by Impey Showers, which helped the centre as it marked its 50th anniversary.

The club was completely renovated earlier this year to bring the centre up to modern standards and to improve access for disabled people.

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews

WHEN I drove past my old school last week, the one thing that struck me was how much it had changed.

Not changed in the way that most places have in 30-odd years, but changed in the sense of its character, to an extent that it is now virtually unrecognisable.

Like many schools, much of the playing fields have been built on, with huge new extensions dwarfing the original buildings. But most noticeable of all is the steel collar of formidable-looking railings which now enclose the school grounds. About 7ft of dull, grey steel with sharp, menacing spikes. Yes, I know schools have had to up their security after the Dunblane massacre, but does it have to look quite so forbidding?

Which brings me to Redhill School in Stourbridge, which has come up with a very innovative way of making children eat their greens – by taking their fingerprints to monitor their eating habits.

To be honest, I began to feel uncomfortable when I began to read stories about children having chocolate biscuits confiscated by teachers at break time. Yes, we all know there is a problem with obesity in schools but is it really the role of teachers to become some sort of diet police?

Apparently other schools use some form of biometric system to keep tabs on the youngsters. But at a time when we constantly hear of schools complaining they are short of money, surely there are better things they could have spent £20,000 on? Like, I dunno, textbooks or chalk?

Yes, times change, and maybe the innocence of childhood is not where it was, but how did we get to the point where children spend their days surrounded by yards and yards of forbidding grey steel and are fingerprinted before they are allowed to eat their lunch. To be honest, that sounds not so much like a school to me. And more like an open prison.

On the subject of things not being what they used to be, Vauxhall has announced it is bringing back the Viva name for its new city car.

The Viva, fondly remembered by many readers as a stylish, nippy small car for drivers discerning enough to choose it over the ubiquitous Ford Escort, and sane enough to choose it over the Austin Allegro with its square steering wheel.

And it was also the last Vauxhall designed in Britain, before the company became totally absorbed into the German Opel division.

Sadly, the new Viva won't be built in Britain, it won't be designed in Britain, in fact it won't be British at all. It will simply be a reskinned Chevrolet Spark (which is really a Daewoo, built in South Korea, and sold outside Britain as the Opel Karl).

Still, makes you proud to be British, doesn't it?



Sumatran tigress Daseep by Kathryn Willett



Dudley's ever alert meerkats by Tracy Davis



Columbian black spider monkeys by Talvinder Chohan

Getting snappy for zoo calendar

ALICE CHARLES gets a sneak preview of Dudley Zoological Gardens' 2015 calendar at its launch event

IF it flies, swims, purrs or squawks, then photographers from across the West Midlands have snapped it.

So when Dudley Zoological Gardens offered amateur photographers the chance to have their work displayed, hundreds jumped at the chance.

Thirteen lucky winners saw their work published in the 2015 calendar, while seven runners-up also received praise for their work. The winning pictures were selected from more than 200 entries from across the region.

The competition marked the first time the zoo had opened up the calendar to members of the public.

The calendar launch took place at a reception at the zoo's newly-installed outdoor gallery next to the tiger enclosure and was presided over by animal-mad Daniel Higgins, of Brierley Hill, who has helped raise cash for tiger conservation in the wild.

Ambassador

"Daniel is a great ambassador for Dudley Zoological Gardens, he's a regular visitor, so we were delighted when he agreed to do the official ribbon cutting," said Jill Hitchman, head of media and communications at Dudley Zoo.

Daniel was presented with a life-size stuffed tiger toy as a thank you. "I love Dudley Zoo and this is my best toy ever, I'm going to put it on my bed and think of all my favourite zoo animals before I go to sleep," he said.

Six-year-old Daniel succeeded in raising more than £200 through a sponsored onesie walk. His mother Donna Lane



Animal-crazy Daniel Higgins, aged 6, of Brierley Hill, launches the new calendar

took the winning cover shot of a male Sumatran tiger. "Joao is simply beautiful, he's won my heart. This image captures his shy character as he explores his surroundings," she said.

Ms Hitchman said: "Within Dudley Zoological Gardens' 1,300-strong collection, we hold some of the most endangered animals on the planet."

"We're very privileged to share the lives of these magnificent creatures within the sanctuary that Dudley Zoological Gardens has offered since 1937. It's a passion endorsed by our loyal

supporters and that's who we asked to provide this year's calendar shots. Competition was tough and it was a difficult task as standards were very high, but in the end I whittled it down to 12 monthly images, plus a front cover and seven runners-up shots that I felt should be included," she added.

"The images offer a glimpse of the wide range of animals at Dudley Zoological Gardens," she said. "The calendars are available in the Safari Gift Shop, at £8.99, and sales are going very well."

Dudley Zoological Gardens' 40-acre site is home to a large collection of endangered species.

January's delightful image of a beautiful Sumatran tigress was taken by Kathryn Willett from Dudley. "She's the most awesome, photogenic tiger you will ever meet, it didn't take long to take the shot. I just have a bridge camera, Nikon P510," she said. "I sent three in and as Daseep is my favourite, it just made it even better. I've adopted her, I just adore her."

Becki Arnott from Lower Gornal took an arresting picture of bearded dragon Percy featured for February. Paul Cox from Kingswinford took a charming photograph of Bornean orang utan, Sprout which appears on March.

Jade Price from Cheltenham took April's beautiful picture of a Carpathian lynx. Vickie Fellows from Dudley describes herself as a "purely amateur" photographer and she took May's cheeky picture of Humboldt penguin, Peter. "I find penguins charming little characters," she said.

Talvinder Chohan from Birmingham took June's loveable picture of Columbian black spider monkeys. He said: "Within this image of Columbian black spider monkeys the same curiosity and inquisitiveness shared by all primates is reflected in a moment to which we can all relate."

July's image of ever-popular meerkats was captured by Tracy Davis from Birmingham using just her iPhone. Katie Edwards from Wombourne took a stunning picture for August of a Chilean flamingo adopting its trademark one-legged pose. Parnia Navabpour took September's image of a Sulawesi crested macaque and Karen Edwards from West Bromwich an engaging photograph of red panda, Yasmin, for October.

The picture of African spotted eagle owl, Kaiser, for November was taken by Ness Chapman of Sutton Coldfield. Steve Weaver from Rubery took December's picture of snow leopard, Nanga.

WEEK IN POLITICS

with Daniel Wainwright

THE fate of the United Kingdom rested last week in the hands of a population smaller than that of the West Midlands.

It was right that it was just the Scots who decided on their nation's future as part of a family or on its own. The question now turns to south of the border.

In a late intervention to swing the vote in favour of No, the main party leaders promised Scotland the equivalent of Home Rule. Now it's time to wonder about England.

Public spending is £8,498 per head in the West Midlands, compared to £10,152 in Scotland. To put that in perspective, if the 5,602,000 people in the West Midlands had the same spending as Scotland they would get an extra £9,265,708,000 a year.

That's about 17 rebuilds of Birmingham's New Street station paid for every 12 months.

The West Midlands has proved that it is more than capable of pulling itself up by its boot straps when the Government gives it the right tools. Take, for example, the JLR engine plant on the Wolverhampton/Stafordshire border. Councils joined forces and agreed to fund the £36.7 million slip road from the M54 motorway – a key sweetener in attracting JLR to the site – by using the business rates they will collect as a way to pay off the investment.

But too much development has relied upon going cap-in-hand to Whitehall. And how many times have the hopes been dashed because governments just would not release the cash?

But with the Scots now about to receive more power it's time we ask the question: What about us?

Ian Austin is not an MP who is afraid to speak his mind, even if it does not necessarily fit the current party line.

He has long been calling for a referendum on Britain's membership of the EU and thinks it should be held before the General Election. He also thinks there should be tough action on illegal immigration.

So far, so common sense. And with a key marginal constituency in Dudley North, Mr Austin knows that it won't just be his core Labour supporters he needs to keep on side but the floating voters too.

UKIP knows this as well. But Mr Austin's opponent Bill Etheridge seems mightily miffed that the Labour MP is saying some of the same things that UKIP has, and thinks he ought to switch sides.

Mr Austin, of course, dismisses the idea utterly.

It's perhaps not the best strategy by UKIP to draw attention to the fact that a Labour MP can and does support the same 'common sense' arguments as it does, while also being a member of one of the biggest parties that could form either the Government or the main opposition.

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Elderly penalised for holidaying abroad

My wife and I booked a two week holiday abroad this week, and knowing that travel agencies blatantly rip you off where travel and holiday insurance costs are concerned, we chose to look elsewhere for cover.

We are a couple in our late seventies and, like many other people of our age, we have underlying medical conditions which means travel insurance costs are being loaded very much in favour of the insurers. We have just been quoted a figure that is equivalent to 25 percent of the original cost of the holiday.

Our medications are routinely prescribed

by doctors to people of retirement age for ailments that might or might not occur.

Having lived in Britain and paying National Insurance contributions all my life, I feel I am being penalised for holidaying abroad rather than Rhyl, God forbid. In effect, I lose my National Insurance rights while holidaying abroad, and any medical costs, other than those covered by European health card provision, have to met by the insurer and, by association, me.

J B WALDRON
Stourbridge

Bus pass is a necessity for OAPs

AS A PENSIONER I say to the powers that be — keep your hands off our bus passes.

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We pensioners spend a lot of money shopping at the towns that we may visit.

If the Government wish to save money stop giving it away to other countries and every immigrant that arrives on our shores.

Our pensions have not been keeping pace with inflation, so a bus pass helps us a bit more.

R OWEN
Bilston

Call to sack doorstep smokers

IT'S about time employers woke up — wherever we go, my husband and I always bump into staff smoking. When they employ these people they should ask if you smoke. They should sack people who smoke as it lingers on clothes, breath, etc.

We have never smoked, we are 25 and 30-years-old and we think it's disgusting. All these kids who smoke at school don't know what they are doing to their bodies for later life.

I work at Kidderminster Hospital and see the people who come in with breathing problems.

I'm glad they banned it in pubs, cafes, etc. There's a lot of staff in Stourbridge alone who stand outside when they should be working.

I'm glad my children, of which I've got five, don't smoke or drink. They don't waste their money.

We would be glad when it's banned in shopping centres up and down the country.

N WILKINSON
Hagley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

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Islam advocates love and respect not doctrine of hate

THE appalling murder of David Haines at the hands of a British follower of ISIS is a horrific act of evil.

Islam advocates love, respect and peace and this abhorrent murder again exposes that ISIS has nothing to do with Islam, faith or any other religion.

It is barbarity at its worst.

We stand united with people of United Kingdom in unequivocally condemning this gruesome killing and hope that those responsible are caught and face the full force of the law.

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, under the guidance of our Caliph, His Holiness Hazrat Mirza Mas-

roor Ahmad, categorically reject extremists, wherever they may be, whatever their cause.

We believe in love for all and hatred for none, and that inter-faith and international dialogue is the only way to cultivate understanding and harmony between people.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of David Haines, may God provide solace and strength to the bereaved and to his loved ones. Amen.

E TOBAN
President Pan-African
Ahmadiyya Muslim
Association
Midlands Region UK

Thank you Severn Trent

ON Tuesday, September 9, realising that our shared sewer pipe was blocked and in the knowledge that recent changes in the status of drainage pipes have been made, I telephoned Severn Trent at 3pm, who accepted liability and promptly sent out two workmen, who arrived and cleared the blockage by 5pm.

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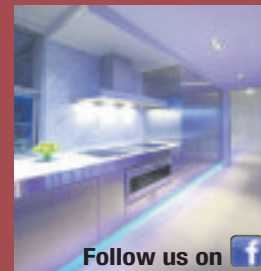
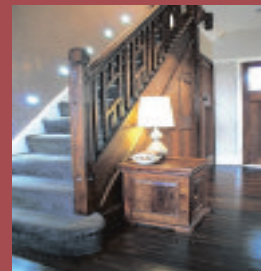
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Move for school and college to join forces

PLANS for a Stourbridge school and a sixth form college to join forces to form a multi-academy trust have been approved by the Department of Education.

The scheme will see King Edward VI College and Ridgewood High School work together and pool resources, enabling them to apply for additional funding.

A six-week consultation with students, parents, governors and staff will take place before a final decision on whether to move ahead with the scheme is made.

Sharon Phillips, principal at King Edward VI College in Lower High Street, said the option was open for other schools in the area to join forces as part of one large academy trust.

"The plan is still in its early stages and everything is pending the result of the consultation," she said.

Ridgewood's bid to back the plan follows its own unsuccessful attempt for stand-alone academy status earlier this year.

Under the new proposals, the 780-pupil school on Park Road West would become an autonomous academy within the new arrangement, operating outside of local authority control.

Headteacher Clive Nut-

ting said the move could have benefits for the school, which was rated as good in its latest Ofsted inspection.

"This is an exciting opportunity for our already successful school to work closely with a high achieving college. We don't have our own sixth form, so one potential advantage is the provision of better opportunities for our students to progress. I believe this proposal has more merit than our previous application," he said.

A consultation regarding academy status at the start of this year met with mixed views.

"It will be interesting to see what feedback we get this time around," he added.

Emily's high note in an NEC showcase



Baggies fan Emily Badger, aged 14, will be singing in the Open Mic contest at Birmingham NEC next month

A YOUNG singer has made it through to the regional finals of a prestigious national competition. Tividale youngster Emily Badger, aged 14, will be competing in the Open Mic UK singing competition on October 4 at the NEC. The St Michael's School pupil has reached the live showcase section of the contest. Emily, who has a place at the Birmingham Ormiston Academy on a performing arts course, has been onto the Hawthorns pitch to sing The Lord's My Shepherd before a match in front of thousands of fans.

Art and photos on show

AN ART and photography exhibition is being staged at Halesowen, featuring work from people attending classes at the new Age UK Dudley centre in Brierley Hill.

The display includes watercolour paintings, acrylics and glass engravings. The exhibition is free to view.

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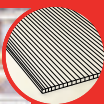


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Reality TV star's son is jailed after car crash

THE son of reality television star Paddy Doherty has been jailed for 14 months for crashing a stolen BMW into an oncoming car after a high speed police chase through the Black Country.

Martin Doherty, aged 20, was accompanied by four others when he led police on the eight-mile chase through icy streets, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

The pursuit ended when Doherty crossed the central reservation on the A4123 Birmingham New Road and smashed head-on into another car, leaving its driver hospitalised and both vehicles written-off.

After the hearing, former bare-knuckle boxing champion Paddy Doherty, who starred in My Big Fat Gypsy Wedding and won Celebrity Big Brother, said his son had 'got what he deserved' after Judge Martin Walsh handed him the 14-month sentence.



Jailed — Martin Doherty, 20, led police on an eight-mile car chase

Appalling

The judge told Martin Doherty he was fortunate his 'appalling' driving did not have 'catastrophic' consequences.

Police spotted the BMW t being driven erratically on the A461 at Dudley Port on December 7, 2012.

Mr Zaheer Afzal, prosecuting, said when police started to follow the car it made off at high speed, entering Priory Road and heading into Dudley town centre before rejoining Birmingham New Road in the direction of Wolverhampton.

During the hearing the court was shown dramatic footage of the chase taken from a pursuing police car, during which Doherty was said to have committed 'numerous traffic violations'.

Mr Zaheer said: "He drove through roadworks and on the opposite side of the road towards oncoming traffic,



Lesson — TV celebrity Paddy Doherty said his son got what he deserved

taken him under his wing and is teaching him the building trade."

Construction worker Doherty, of Riverside Caravan Park, Queensferry, Cheshire, admitted aggravated vehicle taking. He was jailed for 14 months and disqualified from driving for three years.

Paddy Doherty, 55, said: "What he did was wrong and he has got what he deserves.

"He could be dead. I am grateful to God for giving him back to me. He has learned his lesson and these days he is out working every day and keeping away from trouble.

The four passengers in the BMW — Daniel McDonagh, 20, of Sunnyview Road, Chester, and three 18-year-old youths — also admitted charges related to the offence and were sentenced to suspended terms in a youth offenders institution, and given orders to carry out unpaid work.

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The home improvement market is changing and the demand for more choice in colour and suitability of PVC-U doors and windows is growing. Fashionable additions such as orangeries are increasingly desirable, as more people look for ways to improve their home.

Established since 1994, Tipton Windows & Conservatories Ltd, trading as Choices , believe that the latest trends are important, but quality products and exceptional service will always be paramount, which this family run business have proven over two decades.

Situated on Sedgley Road West in Tipton, the founder and company Managing Director Nathan Beddows started the business from scratch at the early age of 19 working out of the very same premises as he does today, He explains his passion:

"I cannot stress enough how much pride we take in every window, door, conservatory, orangery we manufacture and install."

With its roots in manufacturing, the business started more than 20 years ago, and right from the very start an emphasis has been placed on supplying only the finest and most energy-efficient products, but still remaining affordable.

"Our commitment extends beyond the manufacturing process to the design and installation of doors, windows, conservatories and other home improvement services," explains Nathan.

"For some customers we supply new windows and doors, for others we provide a complete home improvement service from building extensions and fitting kitchens, to designing and installing conservatories and more recently Orangeries," says Nathan.

One tremendously satisfied customer is Rick Houghton. Having being recommended to Choices Windows by colleagues at work he employed them to carry out extensive work at his home, he is keen to share his experiences and commend the team involved.

"Every stage of the process was excellently planned and we received nothing but the best service from start to finish. The tradesmen were outstanding and we were so impressed that we handed over our keys and went on holiday whilst the work was being carried out."

Rick and his family were absolutely thrilled and utterly delighted with the results on their return.

"We are so grateful to Nathan and his team for transforming our home into something we could only have dreamed of," remarked Rick.

Keen to keep ahead in the style stakes, Nathan is ever aware of the latest designs, materials and colours on offer, and strives to make these available to his customers.

"Many people are now opting for stylish coloured PVC-U, influenced by timeless muted 'National Trust' tones. Sage green, gun metal grey and cream are all becoming very fashionable alongside the traditional clean bright white," explains Nathan.

Fitting new PVC-U windows can be a good choice for the environment as well as for your home. Replacing dated double glazing can help save money on heating bills and reduce the carbon footprint of a residence.

"We offer A-rated energy-efficient windows and doors which can help save up to £250 from heating bills in the first year alone. They not only reflect heat back into the house, but also retain heat from solar gain," remarks Nathan.

"As a company we pride ourselves on giving old fashioned value for money and excellent service, we can undertake the majority of jobs and because we manufacture in house at our premises unlike the majority of our local competitors it enables us to have full control so we can manage your project from start to completion ensuring your experience is stress free".

"After many years in the Double glazing business we have seen a lot of competitors come and go, unfortunately leaving many customers without any warranty, after parting with their hard earned cash. Any customer who is considering having any home improvements should choose carefully and do their homework on the company they are considering, ensure if you part with money upfront it is protected by a Fensa approved deposit indemnity scheme, ask to visit previous customers but most importantly don't be fooled by the salesmen's tactics of a tempting "sign on the night low price offer" that the double glazing industry is notorious for "advises Nathan.

The old sayings are always the best - after a low price is long forgotten, poor quality long remains".

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Taxi drivers help raise £1k for hospital eye unit



Taxi boss Shaz Saleem with eye clinic staff nurse Somia Kauser after borough cab drivers helped raise £1,155

MORE than £1,000 has been raised for hospital patients by taxi drivers who swapped their cabs for the football field in a charity tournament.

Taxi drivers put their footy skills to the test as they matched up for the annual DudleyTaxi Association cup, which this year was held at The Dell Stadium, Pensnett.

Organisers wanted to raise money for a cause close to home this year and picked Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital. In total, £1,155 was raised

through the generosity of the drivers' passengers over recent weeks and the cash will be going to the eye unit at the hospital, after the drivers learned of the hard work by staff to help glaucoma patients.

Teams entered the tournament from taxi firms Express of Halesowen, Beacon of Sedgley, ABC of Dudley, Elite of Lye, Falcon of Stourbridge, Crown of Brierley Hill and A2B of Lye.

Organiser, Shaz Saleem, who is chairman of Dudley Private Hire and Taxi Association, said the tournament had been a real success.

"We are so grateful to our customers

who helped us raise this money," he said. "Last year we raised money for Birmingham Children's Hospital, yet this year we thought we would look to support a cause in the borough."

"We heard about the work to treat glaucoma from our customers and realised it was such a worthwhile cause."

"When we heard about all the good work done at Russells Hall Hospital we decided to raise money for them again, in the future for other departments."

Elite Taxis took the title at the six a-side tournament beating Falcon 1-0 in the final.

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Fuzz Townshend with Kevin Birch from Halesowen and his 1968 MK1 Jensen Interceptor



The Meadows Frisky Peckmore Passenger, seen when it first came out



John Meadows with his 1958 FriskySport at the launch of the Black Country Echoes Festival in Queen Square, Wolverhampton

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In the heyday of the factories that created the Jensen Interceptor, the Turner 950S and the FriskySport were employing thousands of workers.

Now these lovingly-restored vehicles, built in West Bromwich and Wolverhampton, have taken centre stage as part of a major four-month festival celebrating the best of Black Country culture and heritage.

Until January 17, dozens of exhibitions and events will form the Black Country Echoes Festival that showcases the area's manufacturing heritage at Wolverhampton Art Gallery.

Cars that were built in the Black Country reminded passers-by in Queen Square, Wolverhampton, of the innovation and ingenuity of its engineers.

A 1968 Jensen Interceptor Mark

MEMORY LANE

Report by Daniel Wainwright

1, built in West Bromwich, a 1958 FriskySport from Park Lane in Wolverhampton and a Turner 950S built at the former factory in Pendeford were all on display.

Fuzz Townshend, formerly the drummer with Pop Will Eat Itself and now a presenter on Car SOS on the National Geographic Channel, said the cars were a reminder of what the British motor manufacturing trade has lost.

The 50-year-old said: "I own a Jensen myself. It's fantastic to see them here. The British motor industry declined because we got complacent. Our lives were too good and we wanted Audis and BMWs. But these cars were inspired. Jensen was the first manufacturer to have seatbelts as standard and the first to put into production a four wheel drive. The Frisky came out of the years between the Second World War and the 1960s when people needed



Ken Robbins, from Bridgnorth, with his 1959 Turner 950S – one of just 10 left cars to be cheaper, with lower taxation." by Kevin Birch, aged 49, from Halesowen for £12,000. He took a 1,400-mile round trip to collect it from its previous owner, a British ex-pat living near Bordeaux in France.

Father of two Mr Birch said: "I have wanted one since I was five."

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Exhibition celebrates proud glass heritage



Mayor of Dudley Margaret Aston is seen admiring examples of the work of glass artist Georgia Redpath CRAFTED to echo the stunning pieces that Stourbridge glass makers have created for centuries, these works of art are now on display as part of a festival celebrating the industrial heritage of the Black Country.

The beautiful pieces of glass have been created over the last six months to bring together a collection, known as Objets D'Art, which will be shown at various venues around the Black Country until next year.

The exhibition has been put together for the Black Country Echoes Festival celebrating the industrial heritage

of the area and is on display at Dial Glassworks, Stewkins, Amblecote.

The exhibits have been created by four artists based at Ruskin Studios in Stourbridge; Carol Griffin, Georgia Redpath, Terri Colledge and Jo Newman. The exhibition is particularly special for Mrs Colledge, who is Black Country born and bred. The Coseley-based artist said: "It's been great to be involved with this because we have been able to look at the different ways of working, and explore the traditional methods."

The exhibition is at Dials until October 3, then moves to the Ruskin Glass Centre until January when it will be taken to Dudley Archives. See www.blackcountryechoes.org.uk website.



Terri Colledge with engraved work

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New store to sell Freddie's fashion

FASHION retailers Simply Be and Jacamo were opening a new store at Merry Hill today (Thursday).

More than 1,000 people applied for just 30 jobs at the combined shop which was opening its doors to shoppers at noon.

The Merry Hill launch is part of parent group N Brown Group PLC's plans to open seven new stores before the end of the year, including one in Birmingham.

Flintoff

The 7,946 sqft store will provide a selection of men's and women's fashion. Simply Be is a young fashion collection and Jacamo offers a range of men's designer labels and own brands, including the Flintoff by Jacamo collection, designed by England cricket legend Andrew 'Freddie' Flintoff.

Former Euro MP in court after a police inquiry into expenses

A FORMER UKIP MEP has appeared in court accused of a money laundering offence.

Nikki Sinclair, who lost her seat in the European Parliament earlier this year, also faces a charge of committing misconduct in a public office. Sinclair spoke only to confirm her full name, address and date of birth during a three-minute hearing at Birmingham Magistrates' Court last week.

The 45-year-old, whose lawyer said she strongly denied the allegations, was not required

By Simon Stone

to enter a formal plea to either of the charges. Sinclair, who lives in Shirley, was granted unconditional bail to appear before a judge at Birmingham Crown Court on January 7.

Sinclair was charged in July this year after a two-and-a-half-year inquiry by West Midlands Police and the European Anti-Fraud Office.

The money laundering charge, brought under the Proceeds of Crime Act, alleges that she con-

verted criminal property between October 2009 and December 2010. Prosecutors allege Sinclair committed misconduct between October 2009 and July 2010 'in that she made or caused to be made' false and dishonest claims for travelling expenses.

Her solicitor-advocate, Regan Peggs, said both "linked" charges would be denied.

Sinclair lost her seat as an MEP for the West Midlands in May's European elections after leaving UKIP and standing for the We Demand a Referendum Now party.

X Factor star to sing with choirs

X FACTOR star Lucy Spraggan will be taking to the stage with thousands of young singers in Birmingham.

The singer, who rose to fame on the television talent show, has signed up to perform alongside the Young Voices Choir this January.

Up to 6,000 young people will be taking part on the tour which comes to the LG Arena in Birmingham between January 12 and 16.

Teachers from Midlands schools can sign up to take part in the shows which organisers believe will attract more than 50,000.

Choirs range from 4,500 to 8,500 children, all performing at the same time to audiences of friends and family.

See www.youngvoices.co.uk for details.



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Quarry Bank Celtic FC when winners of the C M Cartwright Celtic Cup in 1994



Nice on Cyril... Mr Cartwright with some of his awards



Quarry Bank Celtic FC with the Division 2 Cup and the Mallin Charity Cup in 1946



Quarry Bank Celtic FC won three trophies in 1947



Cyril and football VIPs including Wolves hero Stan Cullis

Cyril celebrates 70 years of service to football, both on and off the pitch

FOR many local club football is a pleasurable way to spend Saturday mornings but for one Brierley Hill man it has been the most important thing in life for 70 years.

From kit man to caterer 86-year-old Cyril Cartwright, a founding member of Quarry Bank Celtic back in 1944, has covered every position imaginable. West Bromwich Albion fan Cyril said: "I've been a manager, trainer, player, secretary and everything else. I drove the teams to away matches, put out refreshments and even washed the kits, although I didn't really like that job."

Whilst he occasionally took to the field, actually kicking the ball wasn't his forte. Cyril said: "I remember one time I was called up to play in a game and there was a talent scout there. I wasn't really very good at playing football and when the scout came over for a chat the lads all joked that they must have been desperate."

MEMORY LANE

By Charlie Benton

Cyril's skill was to be found in the administrative side of the game and as well as Quarry Bank he was also chief executive of the Midland Combination League and in recent years has been involved in the Kidderminster and District League. Cyril is involved with the running of the Dudley Metro Cup, for which he is treasurer.

Donate

He said: "We donate money to the Russells Hall Hospice and Corbett Hospital and altogether I think we've raised about £15,000."

"We are able to do it because the running costs are quite low, we get the ground for free and such, and that means we can donate more."

Quarry Bank Celtic was forced to close in 2005 but Cyril said has fond memories.

Outside of football Cyril began his working life at Blackheath goods yard in Rowley Regis and worked as a porter before moving on to work on lorries in Stourbridge.

Cyril worked as a lorry driver, a skill he put to good use driving Quarry Bank to games when necessary.

He later worked as a foreman, supervisor and in Customs and Excise before he retired at 60.

For his 40th and 50th milestones for service to football administration Cyril received commendations.

He said: "I didn't want to kick up a fuss of course and didn't really expect much but recognition is always nice."

Now, in his 70th year of service, he is still very much active in the world of local football.

He said: "I do it because I enjoy it, it has always been the most important thing in my life and always will be."

Cyril said his most difficult time in the game was when he was called to referee a women's match.

"There was talk that the match was going to be a bit heated and the original referee dropped out. I was drafted in to replace him and I've never been so scared in all my life."

"I awarded a penalty in the first five minutes which didn't go down too well and I couldn't wait to get off the pitch."

"Mind you, they gave me the man-of-the-match award, which was rather nice of them."

Cricket

Alongside his football career, Cyril said he was also vice president for Amblecote Cricket Club, and even ran as a Conservative councillor for Brierley Hill.

Despite suffering some health issues recently Cyril said he doesn't plan on slowing down.

Cyril said: "I have spent a little bit of time in hospital but when I was there there was a chap who said that he wished he could move as well as I could. I have to remind myself that there are those worse off than me."

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New role on board for tenants

A NEW board consisting of council tenants, residents and council members will replace area housing panels in Dudley after an independent review of tenant and resident involvement.

The new structure was agreed by Dudley Council and the Dudley Federation of Tenants and Residents Association at a meeting last week.

Councillor Pete Lowe, deputy leader, said: "As a community council we are committed to engaging with local people and we know that this is what tenant and residents want. I am sure that by working together we will make sure that we provide the best possible housing service to the people of Dudley borough."

The new board will have the responsibility for allocating the safety and environment budgets as well as ensuring the council provides affordable homes and services. The current interim board will remain in place until March 31, 2015.

More staff will help at hospitals

A DOZEN new specialist health workers are to be drafted in at hospitals this winter in an attempt to reduce the number of patients left waiting in corridors with ambulance staff.

The hospital ambulance liaison staff will add to the 17 already working in the West Midlands.

Most will be based at major hospitals, including New Cross in Wolverhampton and Russells Hall in Dudley.

Paramedics

It is part of a bid by the ambulance service to reduce delays when paramedics bring patients to hospitals. During the 2013/14 financial year, paramedics wasted more than 18,000 hours waiting for a spare bed for their patients.

Hospitals have a 30 minute target to take the patient but this lapsed on 138,900 occasions during the financial year.

Hospital ambulance liaison officers were brought in to help ease the delays over the past three years, but as pressure continues to increase on the ambulance service due to increased call-outs, chief executive Anthony

Marsh has come up with a plan for 12 more over the six-month winter period.

Asked if the handover times for patients were a problem, Mr Marsh said: "Sometimes - it is not a problem every day, it is not a problem at every hospital, but it is a problem."

"It is better than it used to be and we continue to work hard with each hospital to minimise those delays because whilst the delays themselves are not the problem, the problem is the patients out there who are waiting for an ambulance that I can't send an ambulance to. Why? Because they are still in the corridor at a hospital. We work with hospitals to bring down the delays."

He said: "What we are doing is, from the additional winter funding given, we are looking to increase hospital ambulance liaison staff cover at main hospitals."

In March Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group fined The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, which runs Russells Hall Hospital, £74,750 for 334 ambulance handover delays. The money was re-invested into improving emergency care with the aim of reducing handover delays. The hospital trust said it is working with the ambulance service to tackle the problem.

Career highlight with no strings attached



With their puppet pals are Avenue Q stars, from left, Stephen Arden, Richard Morse and Jessica Parker

CHEEKY puppets in an American show that some have described as an adults' only version of The Muppets actually had Black Country talent pulling the strings.

When brash Tony award-winning Broadway and West End comedy Avenue Q came the New Alexandra Theatre in Birmingham last week on

stage were two actor/puppeteers from Dudley.

Stourbridge-born Richard Morse, who appears as Brian, is a former Thorns Community College pupil who went on to study at King Edwards College before learning his craft at Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts. He was delighted to be back in the West

Midlands, adding: "I get a chance not only to perform the show on home turf but in front of all of my friends and family in a packed theatre."

Performing alongside Richard was Kingswinford-born Jessica Parker, 31. She said: "I'm so thrilled. It's ticked off the last stage that I really wanted to perform on since I was little."

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Victorian magic lights up meeting

Coven WI

THERE was a good turnout at the September meeting. The president welcomed everyone, Jerusalem was sung, the previous minutes were read confirmed and correspondence were read and tabled for members' information.

The Victorian evening was excellent and the meal in August at the bistro was enjoyed by those who attended.

The president welcomed Brian Morris who presented a Victorian magic lantern show. He was suitably dressed in Victorian attire and he brought along his hand operated Victorian magic lantern and a large variety of glass slides which depicted all aspects of Victorian life.

Brian, the ultimate showman, encouraged audience participation with questions and chatter; some members were delighted that it brought back memories of their childhood while attending Sunday School.

There were slides of the seaside and old bathing huts, formal family portraits, beautiful babies in large coach built prams, London scenes with trams, old bicycles of the 1800s and so much more.

Brian has been collecting slides for more than 25 years.

Refreshments followed a raffle and a sales table, with money raised going to the First Responders.

Shaun Beech from the PDSA will be the guest at the October 14 meeting, at Coven Memorial Hall at 7.30pm.

Ladies serve up a treat for cyclists



Some of the ladies who served refreshments for the cyclists at Bobbington Village Hall

ALTHOUGH there was no meeting in August, the club did have two events which were very enjoyable.

The first was an outing on the Churnet Valley railway, which included a cream tea. The members also enjoyed another cream tea at the Angel café in Tattenhall after taking part in a treasure hunt organised by president Sue Cotterell. Both outings were well attended giving the ladies a chance to meet up over the summer.

A couple of months earlier, committee members served refreshments at Bobbington Village Hall to hundreds of cyclists who took part in a ride to raise money for Brewood scout hut. The September meeting

Trysull & Seisdon WI

was a fish and chip supper followed by a Harvest Auction. Everyone had been very generous bringing produce and other items for the table.

Clare Preece was the auctioneer and there was a lot of banter and laughter while bids were being made. The competition for an autumn arrangement was won by Rita Brown, and Mary Westwood won the raffle.

On Thursday October 9, shoeboxes will be filled for Operation Christmas Child. Meetings are at 7.30pm at the village hall.

Speaker's delightful talk

Quarry Bank E TWG

Mr Mike Sampson, speaker at the previous meeting.

Social Secretary Mrs Writtle suggested a visit to Bicester Shopping Village.

Speaker was Mary Edwards on 'Four Seasons Gardens'. It was a truly delightful talk - a series of

slides showing flowers and scenes appropriate to the various seasons, and comments and pictures backed by Vivaldi's music.

She was thanked very much for her most enjoyable contribution to our meeting.

The evening concluded as usual with the serving of tea and biscuits.

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Royal Blood — dynamic duo's powerhouse rock has seen their debut top the chart

Lots of famous voices for superstar Streisand duets

LIVING legend **Barbra Streisand** is back with an album of all-star duets that is as classy as it is safe.

The 17 tracks on *Partners* include artists of the calibre of Michael Buble, Stevie Wonder, Billy Joel, Andrea Bocelli and Barry Manilow. They also include duets with the dead, Elvis Presley and Frank Sinatra, and I don't think these cut-and-paste jobs every hit home however skillfully put together.

Such is Streisand's status that several of the songs are standards that she has already put her stamp upon. These include *The Way We Were*, with Lionel Ritchie, Guilty with Barry Gibb and Evergreen with Babyface, the R&B hitmaker being the only one to duet twice — probably because he is Barbra's producer here.

The ones that work best are those with a contrast, such as her duet with rocker Bryan Adams on *I Finally Found Someone* and with the bluesy John Mayer on *Come Rain Or Come Shine*. And why not an all-female duet?

If your taste in female singers runs to

REVIEWS

Amy Winehouse, Katie Melua or Paloma Faith, then check out singer-songwriter **Lucinda Belle**, a former Robbie Williams backing singer who has made an impressive debut entitled *Think Big: Like Me*.

Her styles range from up-tempo 50s style popular jazz such as *Nothing Left To Do But Smile* to the darkly beautiful, *Wicked Game*-like ballad *My Only Lament*, co-written with Ed Harcourt.

For the real deal, I warmly recommend compilation **Mid Century Minx**, a primer to the more obscure female jazz singers of the 50s and early 60s for 20 gems of laid-back cocktail hour jazz. While some of these singers are reasonably well known, such as Anita O'Day, Jo Stafford and Jeri Southern, there are lots of discoveries to be made, from the smooth allure of Irene Kral to the girlish tones of Beverley Kenney. **LB**

This Royal Blood rock debut is exhilarating

THE self-titled debut album from Brighton duo **Royal Blood** is already being hailed as the rock album of the year after it shot into the album chart at no.1, a rare feat for a previously unknown band.

Just a few months ago Royal Blood were third on the bill when the NME tour rolled into Birmingham but when they go back to Digbeth venue The Institute on November 4 it will be sold out.

For two musicians, drummer Ben Thatcher and singer/bassist Mike Kerr, they make a mighty big sound. Various effects make Kerr's bass sound like a wall of guitars and Thatcher's piston-like precision percussion is unrelenting.

Comparisons have been made with The White Stripes and Queens of the Stone Age, and they stand up, but there are hints also of Muse in their clattering drama and of Black Rebel Motorcycle Club in their hazy hard riffing with a blues swagger.

The Jack White/blues influence is most apparent on *Figure It Out* with its guitar stomp. Blood Hands and Careless takes things to a classic rock level that may persuade Led Zep fans to cock an ear (it is said that Jimmy Page is already a fan).

Royal Blood's debut is not perfect, the stop-start grunginess is sometimes repetitive, but it certainly is exhilarating and indicates a major new act on the rock scene. **Leon Burakowski**

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Scarecrows go to the movies

THE Belbroughton Scarecrow Festival is to return this weekend for its 19th year.

The event takes over the whole of the village and more than 100 scarecrows are expected to be displayed at the festival, which is on Saturday and Sunday. The theme for this year will be the movies' greatest heroes and villains. Money raised from the festival will be shared between charities. Organisers will also be taking food collections for the Black Country Foodbank.

The weekend is said to attract some 20,000 visitors and this year they have special guests, community choir Got 2 Sing performing at Belbroughton Recreation Centre on Saturday. The youth choir sing songs from Frozen at 12.30 and the adult choir sings at 2.30pm. See belbroughton scarecrow.co.uk for details.

Hippodrome put on national list of the theatres 'at risk'

A LANDMARK former theatre in Dudley has been placed on the Theatres Trust's list of the nation's most 'at risk' venues.

Campaigners are working on fresh plans to rescue Dudley Hippodrome in Castle Hill which has been earmarked for demolition by the council.

The annual register features theatres which under threat of the wrecking ball and redevelopment as well

as buildings that are abandoned, neglected or decaying, and those in use but at risk of closure.

It comes as The Friends of Dudley Hippodrome group and events company Events that Rok have until the end of October to put forward revised proposals to re-open the building.

Dudley Hippodrome, also a former Gala Bingo hall, is one of 33 buildings on the register.

The Trust's report says: "It was well maintained while in bingo use and the

interior still has a theatrical 'feel'. Later alterations within the auditorium are fully reversible and it would be possible to return the theatre to live use."

Mhora Samuel, Director of The Theatres Trust said: "The Theatre Buildings at Risk Register really raises awareness of the plight of many of our most threatened theatres. It makes people much more aware of the beautiful and much loved theatres that could be lost forever if action is not taken."



Dudley Hippodrome building

Oktoberfest is planned at bar

A STOURBRIDGE brewery is staging a German-style Oktoberfest beer festival.

The event at the Green Duck Brewery's Badelynge Bar in Rufford Road is running from October 9 to 11.

Other breweries whose beers will be featured include Rat, Blackwater, Fixed Wheel, Two Towers and Riverhead.

Music

There will be live music each day from Bethan and the Morgans.

The festival, which will feature more than 16 real ales and 10 ciders, runs from 4pm to 11pm on the Thursday, and from 1pm to 11pm on the Friday and Saturday.

TV antiques trip expert visits shop



Celebrity auctioneer Charles Hanson, left, with Phil Sims

CAMERAS from BBC TV's Antiques Road Trip arrived at The Sims Vintage Shop in Belbroughton, near Stourbridge, last week to film for an episode to be shown next year.

Phil Sims was greeted at his shop, off Stourbridge Road, by celebrity auctioneer Charles Hanson.

It comes weeks after Mr Sims made a discovery which has seen him make headlines. Five valuable pocket watches dating back to the 19th Century were found in a ginger jar more than 10 years after they went missing.

Steve Bubb had given up all hope of seeing the family heirlooms again after scouring his family home in Clent.

The 58-year-old brewery owner had handed over a large ginger jar to his friend MrSims to sell for £20 but luckily the antiques dealer found the treasured family watches wrapped up in newspaper inside the jar and let Mr Bubb know. It is thought his late mother may have hidden them in the jar but then forgot about them.

Mr Sims said: "BBC's Antiques Road Trip TV show filmed at our shop for about five hours and it will be televised in their next series."

Christian library invite for the public

A CHRISTIAN library in Stourbride is extending an invitation to new visitors.

Around 4,000 books line the shelves inside the Robin Woods Library inside the New Road Methodist Church Centre, in Stourbridge. The theological and Christian education library is based at the centre on the town's ring road.

Run by a team of volunteers, the library is open to the public and includes a quiet reading area, toilets and limited parking. There is no charge for borrowing books.

Librarian and volunteer co-ordinator Jan Scott said: "The library is a valued and important community resource for everyone exploring spirituality and faith."

It was originally set up in the mid-1990s by Frances Gibson, and is one of two libraries belonging to the Worcester Diocese. In 2002 the library moved to its present location from the Robin Woods Centre, in Scotts Road, Stourbridge.

For opening hours call (01384) 376444.

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For fitness fans preferring to work out in a group, there are 40 fitness classes to select from including the latest world-class Les Mills programmes including BODYPUMP, GRIT (small group training), CXWORX, RPM and BODYCOMBAT. MegaGym also hosts the famous BeachBody Insanity and Zumba classes. All classes take place in a purpose-built, air conditioned studio.

Gym manager Dave Cross said: "To provide affordable fitness in a relaxed and social atmosphere, we've avoided the gimmicks whilst giving you the best quality service and value for your money. Our prices start at £14.99 and there's also a choice of contract or flexible membership."

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Review

Ian Pittaway & Billie Spakemon
Newhampton Folk Club
 THE autumn season of the Newhampton Folk Club kicked off with two very different acts sharing the bill upstairs in the Newhampton Inn, Whitmore Reans.

Billie Spakemon, a storyteller and singer from Oldbury, is passionate about the Black Country dialect — so much so he has a PhD in it and speaks at international conferences.

When you get someone such as Spakemon who is proud of the local tongue, it takes on a new life and a kind of magic happens where you reconnect to terms such 'jed', meaning dead, and 'fittle', food. His stories and songs covered murder, wife selling, love, courtship and parenthood.

In contrast was Ian Pittaway who specialises in mediaeval and renaissance music which he plays on two beautifully crafted lutes. The music he expertly plays are as authentic as you can get without a time machine to take you back to the 16th century.

His gentle and precise skill on the instruments — he plays guitar too — is impressive to watch. The sound he produces is the sort of music which the likes of Shakespeare would have listened to.

Both performances were unplugged which meant they were fighting against the sound of the Oxfam festival going on downstairs in the pub, and while it didn't spoil the show, the loud music was intrusive.

Danny Farragher

It's no longer a labour of love as brothers row over UB40 name

You'll want more of this show

ONE of the best loved musicals is returning to Wolverhampton next month. Lionel Bart's *Oliver!* is based on the classic novel by Charles Dickens about the adventures of orphan Oliver Twist in 19th century London.

Oliver! is staged at the Grand Theatre from October 14 to 18 in a production by South Staffs Musical Theatre Company. It features such memorable songs as Food Glorious Food, Consider Yourself, As Long As He Needs Me and I'd Do Anything.

Mike Thomas, of Albrighton, will play Fagin while James Collins, a teacher at Smeeston School, plays nasty Bill Sykes. Office worker Lexie Bennett, of Upper Gornal, makes her company debut as Nancy. The title role will be shared by James Shaw, aged nine, from Brewwood, and 12-year-old Ben Sidaway, of Stourport. Call the box office on 01902 429212.



Lexie Bennett as Nancy and James Collins as Bill Sykes with his dog Bullseye

Ali Campbell and brother Duncan are the Cain and Abel of reggae.

Both front bands called UB40. Confused? You should be. So's Ali — and he helped create the band and sang with them for more than 30 years, selling 70 million records including hits like Kingston Town and Red, Red Wine, among many others.

Trouble is, there are now two bands using the name UB40. There's Ali, Mickey and Astro, then there's the rest of the guys.

Following a sold out gig at Birmingham O2 Academy on December 19, Ali's UB40 will line up at Birmingham's NIA on April 17 next year — though they might have changed their name by then.

He said: "The thing is, there's a lot of confusion and we want to clear it up."

Legendary

"When me, Astro and Mikey go out, I make sure the fans know they are coming to see me. We call the show The Legendary Voice of UB40, or Ali Campbell's UB40."

"The other guys are accusing me of 'passing off', which means I'm pretending to be UB40. But I'm the one who started the band. I think it's hilarious."

The matter is heading to court and Ali's been served with a writ, urging him to cease and desist from using the name UB40.

"I was forced into leaving because of all sorts of issues. I'd had enough. The next



Ali Campbell — on the road

thing I know my brother, Duncan, has joined the band. It's proper Cain and Abel stuff. I haven't spoken to any of them. It stresses me out."

There are, of course, two sides to every story and 'the other' UB40 have pinned the blame on Ali.

Meanwhile Ali's doing what he does best, he's taking to the road to sing.

"This year, we're off to Australia, New Zealand, Africa, India and the USA. We don't want anything to stop us," he said.

Andy Richardson

Wouldn't it be good to see Nik?

PRIME gigs this week include 1980s hit-maker Nik Kershaw at Bilston's Robin 2 tonight and American singer-songwriter James Taylor at the LG Arena tomorrow.

Steve Craddock of Birmingham's Ocean Colour Scene is at Wolverhampton venue The Slade Rooms on Saturday, same night as The Busbys' charity bash at Robin 2. Mancunians 1975 have sold out their Wolverhampton Civic gig on Monday, the same night The Horrors play The Institute in Digbeth.

The highly-rated Nell Bryden, last seen in Wolverhampton supporting Gary Barlow, is at the Robin 2 on Wednesday, the same night The Sunshine Underground play the Slade Rooms.

Comedy nights at city venues

IT is comedy all the way in Wolverhampton over the next week. Dave Gorman brings his Work In Progress to the Slade Rooms for two nights, on Monday and Tuesday, then one of Ireland's favourite comics, Tommy Tiernan, on Thursday, October 2.

Also coming up at the same venue are radical comic Andy Zaltzman on Saturday, October 4, and Edinburgh Festival success Peter Johansson on October 9.

Meanwhile, Michael Palin will be talking about Python and his globe-trotting adventures in Travelling To Work at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre on Tuesday.

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CHOICE



Doctor Who (BBC1, 8.30pm)
The Time Lord's companions have always lived double lives – one involving their friends and family, usually on Earth, with the other focusing on travelling through time and space saving the universe with their alien best buddy. Clara thinks this arrangement suits her just fine – after all, what could be better than gallivanting with the Gallifreyan one minute, and then settling down to watch telly with her new boyfriend the next? But when terrifying events threaten Coal Hill, the last thing she needs is for the school to welcome a relief caretaker with a Scottish accent – especially as it means he may finally come face to face with Danny. Sci-fi drama, starring Peter Capaldi, Jenna Coleman and Samuel Anderson.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** The Great British Bake Off: An Extra Slice. (R) **12.00** BBC News: Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **12.50** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** Sailing: World Championship Highlights. **2.00** Live Cycling: Road World Championships. The women's road race. **4.00** Final Score. **5.20** Celebrity Mastermind. (R) **5.50** BBC News: Regional News. **6.05** **Pointless Celebrities.** With famous faces from the world of theatre – Simon Callow, Imogen Stubbs, Lysette Anthony, Christopher Timothy, Gwen Taylor, Keith Barron, Claire Sweeney and Simon Shepherd. **7.00** **Strictly Come Dancing.** Following last night's first live edition, in which the first six celebrity hoofers made their dance-floor debuts – not counting the group number they all exuberantly threw themselves into in the launch show earlier this month – Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman introduce the nine celebrities who have been patiently waiting in the wings, ready to show off what they've learned in the rehearsal room – or not, in the case of any potential John Sergeant and Mo Mowlams. With no public vote or elimination this weekend, the scores given by judges Len Goodman, Bruno Tonioli, Craig Revel Horwood and Darcie Bussell are carried over to next week, when the first couple will leave the competition. To paraphrase Tess and Claudia – it's time to "geeeeeeee dancing!". **8.30** **Doctor Who.** The Time Lord goes undercover as a caretaker at Coal Hill School when a new threat emerges – and before long, he comes face to face with Clara's boyfriend Danny Pink. **9.15** **Casualty.** A wedding ends in disaster when the floor collapses. Max tries to win over a teenage girl suffering abdominal pains, and Lofy suspects a patient is a victim of domestic abuse. **10.05** **The National Lottery Live.** The numbers are revealed for the results of the Lotto and the Thunderball draws. **10.15** **BBC News:** Weather. **10.30** **Match of the Day:** National Lottery Update. **12.05** The Football League Show. **1.25** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.30** BBC News.

BBC2

6.15 Film: Magnificent Doll. (1946) **7.45** **Film:** The Island at the Top of the World. (1974) **9.15** The Trials of Life. (R) **10.10** The Trials of Life. (R) **11.00** Map Man. (R) **11.30** South Africa Walks. (R) **12.00** Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers: Talking Pictures. (R) **12.50** **Film:** Swing Time. (1936) Musical, starring Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. **2.30** **Film:** Strictly Ballroom. (1992) Australian dance comedy, starring Paul Mercurio. **4.00** Live Cycling: Road World Championships. **5.00** The £100K House: Tricks of the Trade. (R) **6.00** **Restoring England's Heritage.** **6.30** **Gardeners' World.** Monty Don meets world-renowned garden designer Piet Oudolf at his latest creation in Somerset, where he explains how viewers can adapt the Dutchman's style for their own gardens. (R) **7.00** **Flog It! Trade Secrets.** The experts offer advice on buying and selling military memorabilia and presenter Paul Martin explores the issues surrounding collecting antique firearms. **7.30** **Hilary Mantel: Case Histories.** The author chats to James Runcie about the final part of her Thomas Cromwell trilogy and The Assassination of Margaret Thatcher, her new collection of short stories. **8.00** **Dad's Army.** Corporal Jones misplaces £500 donated by local shopkeepers to provide a new canteen for servicemen, so the platoon tries to help him remember where he put it. (R) **8.30** **Golf: The Ryder Cup.** Hazel Irvine and Dan Walker present highlights of day two from the Gleneagles Hotel in Perthshire, where the 40th staging of the biennial contest between teams from the USA and Europe continued with more fourballs and foursomes matches. With commentary and analysis by Peter Alliss, Ken Brown, Andrew Cotter, Mark James, Phil Parkin, Maureen Madill, Scott Drummond, Rishi Persad and Russell Fuller. **10.30** **Film: Margin Call.** (2011) Premiere. An executive dismissed from an investment bank leaks news of an impending crisis, which soon spreads throughout the company. Drama, starring Kevin Spacey and Paul Bettany. **12.10** TOTP2. (R) **1.10** **Film:** X the Unknown. (1956) **2.30** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITY: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.40** Dino Dan. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan. (R) **7.05** Animals. (R) **7.10** Animals. (R) **7.20** Om Nom Stories. (R) **7.25** Sooty. (R) **7.40** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.55** Matt Hatter Chronicles. **8.15** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **8.30** Munch Box. **9.25** The Hungry Sailors. (R) **10.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.25** ITV News: Weather. (11.30) **Film:** The Mirror Crack'd. (1980) **1.35** The X Factor. (R) **2.35** **Film:** Field of Dreams. (1989) Baseball fantasy, with Kevin Costner and Ray Liotta. **4.30** The X Factor. (R) **5.35** Off Their Rockers. (R) **6.05** **Regional Programme:** Weather. **6.15** **ITV News:** Weather. **6.30** **New You've Been Framed!** New series. Harry Hill narrates the comical clips show, featuring trouble in church, a grandmother taking on a fire engine, a dog stealing a smartphone and a breakfast surprise. **7.00** **The Chase: Celebrity Special.** Emmerdale's Natalie Anderson (Alicia Metcalfe), actress Patsy Kensit, broadcaster Esther Rantzen and singer-presenter Brian McFadden compete to win thousands of pounds for charity by taking on one of the show's resident trivia experts in a test of their general knowledge. However, they must work as a team to build their prize pot and stay one step ahead of the Chaser. **8.00** **The X Factor.** The six-chair challenge continues in the second of three boot-camp shows, as the hopefuls battle it out for the chance to win a record deal. The stakes are high as the acts perform individually to win a seat – each one representing a place at the judges' houses stage of the competition, but nobody is safe until the last person in each category has sung. **9.20** **Through the Keyhole.** Craig Charles, Fearnie Cotton and Dave Berry make up this week's panel as Keith Lemon tours mystery properties and challenges them to guess the identities of the famous homeowners. **10.20** **ITV News:** Weather. **10.35** **Film: Shaun of the Dead.** (2004) Comedy horror, with Simon Pegg and Nick Frost. **12.25** Jackpot247. **3.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.40** **ITV** Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.35** Trans World Sport. **7.30** The Grid. **7.55** The Morning Line. **8.30** **Weekend Kitchen.** **10.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.30** Frasier. (R) **11.00** Frasier. (R) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.30** The Simpsons. (R) **1.00** Gadget Man. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage of races at Newmarket and Market Rasen. **4.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.40** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.45** Come Dine with Me. (R) **6.15** **Come Dine with Me.** Hairdresser Francesca Saynor hosts the final dinner party in Wakefield and hopes that her simple menu and back-to-school theme will impress her guests. (R) **6.45** **Channel 4 News.** **7.15** **Sarah Beeny's Double Your House for Half the Money.** In Bow Brickhill near Milton Keynes, a couple want to add more space to their tiny cottage, while in Cardiff, plans are made for a huge wraparound extension to a three-bed house. (R) **8.10** **Grand Designs.** Architect Patrick Bradley has come up with an unusual £100,000 house design built out of four 45ft shipping containers, welded together to form a giant cross and cantilevered over the top of a stream on the family farm in Co Derry. His mother is hoping the new home will help her son find a girlfriend, but the small budget and tight schedule soon pose problems. Kevin McCloud follows his progress. (R) **9.15** **Film: End of Watch.** (2012) Premiere. Two Los Angeles cops make their regular patrol of the city, dealing with petty offences while on records their lives on camera for a documentary project. The officers end up in over their heads when they stumble on evidence that could bring down a drug cartel, putting them squarely in the gang's firing line. Crime thriller, with Jake Gyllenhaal. **11.25** **Rude Tube.** Alex Zane presents a countdown of 50 viral clips of merry mishaps, including a parallel parking fail marathon and the infamous Wealdstone Raider. (R) **12.25** Alan Carr: Chatty Man. (R) **1.20** **Film:** Hot Rod. (2007) **2.50** Homeland. (R) **3.40** Hollyoaks. **5.50** NFL: Rush Zone.

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Access. **10.10** Never Teach Your Wife to Drive. (R) **11.10** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **12.10** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **1.10** Storage: Flog the Lott! (R) **2.15** **Film:** Cromwell. (1970) Historical drama, starring Richard Harris and Alec Guinness. **5.00** **Film:** The Long Ships. (1963) Viking adventure, starring Richard Widmark and Sidney Poitier. **7.30** **5 News: Weekend.** **7.35** **World War II in Colour.** By the end of June 1940, German forces controlled Denmark, Norway, Holland, Belgium and France, with Britain defiant but bloodied after the retreat from Dunkirk and in no state to take on the all-conquering Nazi war machine. However, Britain still had a powerful navy and some of the finest fighter planes ever built and had also made two powerful technological breakthroughs – radar and the cracking of the German Enigma code – that would give it a vital edge in the Battle of Britain. Prime minister Winston Churchill then began the fightback, with commando raids and help for the resistance in occupied Europe. (R) **8.30** **Film: The Patriot.** (2000) A retired soldier takes up arms once more to avenge the unprovoked murder of his son at the hands of the British during the American War of Independence – and finds himself up against a sadistic officer wreaking havoc in the surrounding area. Roland Emmerich's action adventure, starring Mel Gibson, Jason Isaacs, Heath Ledger and Joely Richardson. **11.35** **Lost Heroes of World War One.** The course of the conflict through archived interviews with those who lived through it. As war is declared, a patriotic fervour sweeps through the nation. Narrated by Dougray Scott. (R) **12.00** SuperCasino. Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.10** Age Gap Love: He's 70, She's 37. Conclusion of the two-part documentary featuring people in relationships with much younger partners, including a woman who fell in love with her father's friend. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. A couple from Milton Keynes hope to move to France. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 World's Craziest Fools **7.30** Great TV Mistakes **8.30** Top Gear **9.30** Bad Education **10.00** Comedy Fest Live 2014 **11.00** Family Guy **1.35** Bad Education **2.05** Siblings **3.35** Vodka Diaries **4.00** Close
BBC Four
7.00 Yellowstone **8.00** Hidden Killers: The Edwardian Home **9.00** Crimes of Passion **10.30** Top of the Pops: 1979 **11.10** Young Guns Go for It **12.10** Horizon: Why Can't We Predict Earthquakes? **1.10** Yellowstone **2.10** Young Guns Go for It **2.50** Hidden Killers: The Edwardian Home **3.50** Close
ITV2
11.35 The X Factor **12.35** The Xtra Factor **1.05** You've Been Framed! **2.05** You've Been Framed! **3.35** **Film:** Valiant (2005) **5.15** **Film:** Nanny McPhee (2005) **7.20** **Film:** Evan Almighty (2007) **9.20** The Xtra Factor **9.50** The Job Lot **10.20** Celebrity Juice **11.05** Release the Hounds **12.00** The X Factor **1.25** The Xtra Factor **1.50** Two and a Half Men **2.35** Life's Funniest Moments **2.55** Teleshopping **5.55** ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3
12.30 **Film:** Columbo: Identity Crisis (1975) **2.35** A Touch of Frost **4.45** Wycliffe **5.50** Inspector Morse **7.55** Rosemary & Thyme **9.00** Midsomer Murders **11.00** Bomb Girls **12.00** The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes **1.10** Judge Judy **1.50** Movies Now **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping
ITV4
11.10 **Film:** For Whom the Bell Tolls (1943) **2.20** British Superbike Championship Highlights **3.25** The Motorbike Show **4.25** Goodwood Revival **4.55** 25 Super Wars **8.00** River Monsters **9.00** **Film:** The Spy Who Loved Me (1977) **11.35** **Film:** Scarface (1983) **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping
E4
11.30 How I Met Your Mother **12.30** Melissa & Joey **1.30** The Big Bang Theory **2.35** Rude (ish) Tube **3.35** 2 Broke Girls **4.30** The Big Bang Theory **7.30** How I Met Your Mother **8.30** The 100 **7.30** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **8.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** **Film:** GI Joe: The Rise of Cobra (2009) **11.20** The Big Bang Theory **11.50** How I Met Your Mother **12.50** The Mindy Project **1.20** Almost Royal **1.50** The Ricky Gervais Show **2.50** The Cleveland Show **3.35** Glee **4.15** Desperate Housewives
Film4
11.00 The Valley of Gwangi (1969) **1.00** Star Trek V: The Final Frontier (1989) **3.05** Sister Act (1992) **5.05** Fast Girls (2012) **6.50** The Three Musketeers (2011) **9.00** Beverly Hills Cop (1984) **11.05** Man on Fire (2004) **1.55** Raging Bulls of Steel Justice **2.10** Circle of Eight (2009) **4.00** Close

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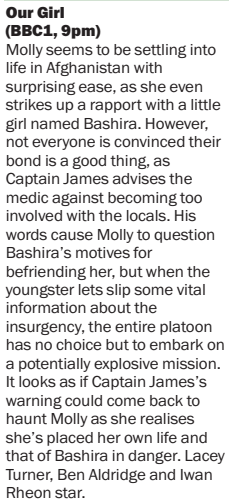
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DIGITAL



6.00 Breakfast. **7.30** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.00** T2. A year's Analysis of yesterday's Premier League matches.

1.00 BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.15** Escape to the Country. **3.15** The Great British Bake Off. (R) **4.15** Points of View. **4.30** Songs of Praise. **5.10** Dead on a Mission: Pole to Pole. **5.40** Celebrities. (R)

6.30 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

7.00 **Countryside.** For the second year running, Countryside plays host to One Man and His Dog, the contest showcasing the skills and traditions of sheepdog training and handling. Matt Baker and Helen Kellett present the action from Sylanb Aberg and the North York Moors, as handlers representing England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales compete to become the 2014 champions. Between rounds, Helen explores the hills around the abbey, whose monks used to be at the heart of Britain's wool trade, and discovers how nearby Ampleforth Abbey is still going strong. But rather than raising sheep, its monks are now selling cider. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

8.00 **Ant & Dec's Saturday Takeaway.** A return visit to Kirby Hall in Northamptonshire, where items include Art Deco enamel, a toy football team, a stuffed dog, a Venetian drug jar and an elaborate carved chair.

9.00 **Our Girl.** Molly strikes up a friendship with a young Afghan girl, in spite of Capt James' warnings against becoming too involved with the locals, threatening her ability to remain impartial.

10.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

10.30 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman presents highlights of the Premier League match at the Hawthorns, where West Bromwich Albion welcomed Burnley.

11.20 **Film: Fightplan.** (2005) A woman on board a flight with her daughter wakes up to find the girl has disappeared – but no one else remembers having seen her. The film. Jodie Foster and Peter Sarsgaard.

12.50 Weather for the Week Ahead.

12.55 BBC News.

6.00 Countryside. (R) **7.00** Great British Garden Revival. (R) **8.00** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.30** The Beechgrove Garden. (R) **9.00** The Gardeners' Question Time. (R) **10.20** Saturday Kitchen Best of Festas. (R) **11.00** Lorraine Pascale: How to Be a Better Cook. (R) **12.20** Rick Stein's Mediterranean Escapes. (R) **1.20** Live Cycling: Road World Championships. The men's road race. **4.00** Canoe Slalom: World Championships highlights. **5.30** Rugby League: Super League Play Offs. **6.30** **Jungle Atlantis.** A thousand years ago, the Khmer people of Cambodia built an empire and their capital was the great city of Angkor Wat – its centrepiece being Angkor Wat – a vast temple complex covering an area more than 100 times the size of St. Peter's Vatican City. In the first of this two-part programme, an international team of archaeologists and scientists use revolutionary technology to reveal the true scale and extent of the lost metropolis and find out how its people lived and died. (R) **7.30** **Golf: The Ryder Cup.** Hazel Irvine presents highlights of the third day from the Gleanings Hotel in Perthshire, where the 40th staging of the biennial contest between teams from the USA and Europe concluded with the singles match. With commentary and analysis by Peter Alliss, Ken Brown, Andrew Cotter, Mark James, Phil Parkin, Maureen Madill, Scott Drummond, Rishi Persad and Russell Fulton. **9.30** **Mock the Week.** Rob Beckett, Milton Jones, Roshni Raj and Richard Wailly join regular panellists Hugh Dennis and Andy Parsons on the topical comedy quiz. Dara O'Briain hosts. (R) **10.00** **Film: Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll.** (2009) Premier. Biopic of pop singer Ian Dury, focussing on the impact his rise to fame and volatile personality had on his relationship with his son. With Andy Serkis and Bill Milner. **11.55** **Film: The Children.** (2008) A family Christmas at a remote cottage turns deadly when a virus transforms the children into bloodthirsty killers. Horror. Directed by Eva Birthistle and Stephen Campbell Moore. **1.15** **Sign Zone: Countryside.** (R) **2.10** **Holly City.** (R) **3.10** **The Isle RBC.** Two

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25 Pat & Stan.** (R) **6.35 Pat & Stan.** (R) **6.40 Dino Dan.** (R) **6.50 Dino Dan.** (R) **7.00 The Big Game.** (R) **7.10 Animals.** (R) **7.20 Onom.** Stories. (R) **7.25 Sooty.** (R) **7.40 Mr Bean.** The Animated Series. (R) **7.50 Ultimate Spider-Man.** **8.20 Nerds & Monsters.** (R) **8.30 Big Time Rush.** **9.00 The Aquabats!** **Super Show.** **9.15 TV News.** **9.30 Dickin' with the Deal.** **9.45 12.15 Murder, She Wrote.** (R) **11.25 TV News.** **Weather.** **11.35 Film:** Carry On Girls. (1973) **1.15 Film:** Fletch Lives. (1989) **Comedy, starring Chevy Chase.** **3.00 The X Factor.** **4.15 4.30 Downton Abbey.** (R) **5.45 All Star Family Fortunes.** (R) **6.35 Regional Programme.** **Weather.** **6.45 TV News.** **Weather.**

7.00 Sunday Night at the Palladium. Jack the Giant Slayer. The comedy show, with Lionel Richie, the Script, dance act Dupli8, comedy duo the Umbilical Brothers and a preview of the new made in Dagenham musical.

8.00 The X Factor. As the boot-camp triple bill concludes, the 24 judges acts kick in and the favorite to raise their game to stand out at the forthcoming judges' houses stage of the competition.

9.00 Downton Abbey. A bombshell was dropped in last week's edition, and it's clear as this episode begins that the household, both upstairs and down, is still coming to terms with what has happened – and it falls on Robert's broad shoulders to make what could be a far-reaching decision about the situation. Rose, meanwhile, seems more concerned with persuading him to buy a dress that she thinks is happening to those around her – but then again, she's always been trapped in her own self-centred little world. In the kitchen, Mrs Patmore thinks she may have found a way to help Daisy cope with her studies, and the other servants' wives look set to scupper Barbara's friendship with Moseley.

10.05 ITV News. **Weather.**

10.10 11.01 Married the Waiter: Love in the Sun. Stories of British women whose holiday romances endured long after they returned home to the UK. (R)

11.15 Premiership Rugby Union.

12.10 12.10 The Store. **2.30 Motorsport UK.** **3.20 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** (R) **4.05 4.05 ITV News.** **5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** (R).

6. **15 British P3. 6.40 British P3. 7.05** Ironman Wales. **7.35 NFL:** The American Football Show. (R) **8.30 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **8.45 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **9.30 Sunday Brunch. 12.30** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) **1.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 1.55 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 2.25 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 2.55 Film:** She's the Man. (2006) Romantic comedy, starring Amanda Bynes and Tim Allen. He travels in the Channel 4 News. **5.30 American Football:** Live at Wembley. Oakland Raiders v Miami Dolphins (Kick-off 6.00pm). **8.00 Operation Manoeuvr.** Mark Evans travels to the shores of Hudson Bay in Canada, where polar bears are causing havoc in isolated communities. He arrives in the town of Churchill just hours after an attack has left two people seriously injured and one of the animals dead. Here, he joins an alert team transporting a captured bear by helicopter to a designated release site. Next day, in the town of Arviat, he works with wildlife officers to test an aerial drone early warning system, a military-grade loud speaker deterrent and a controversial experiment to place meat out on the tundra to draw these predators away from farms. **9.00 Film: Magic Mike.** (2012) Premiere. A male stripper who is the star attraction in a nightclub teaches a talented young dancer the tricks of the trade, while also introducing him to his homonymous world-famous veteran show performer father for his protégé's sister, but finds his wild lifestyle comes between them. Steven Soderbergh's comedy drama, with Channing Tatum, Matthew McConaughey, Olivia Munn and Alex Pettyfer. **11.15 Film: Incident Precedent.** (1993) Premiere. A couple pay \$1 million for the wife to sleep with a billionaire, but their marriage suffers as a result. Drama, starring Robert Redford, Demi Moore and Woody Harrelson. **1.20 American Football:** Live. Dallas Cowboys v New Orleans Saints (Kick-off 1.30pm). **1.30 NFL:** Mike Carlson to present coverage of the match from AT&T Stadium. **5.00 Ironman Wales.** Highlights of the race in Pembrokeshire. (R) **5.25 Win It Cook It.** Hosted by Simon Rimmer. (R) **5.55 Deal or No Deal.** Players try to beat the banker and guess the contents of mystery boxes. (R)

6.00 **Milking Shark:** Peppa Pig. **6.05** **Roary the Racing Car:** (R) **6.15** **Angelina Ballerina:** (R) **6.30** **Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures:** (R) **6.40** **The Mr. Men Show:** (R) **6.55** **Chloe's Closet:** (R) **7.05** **Olly the Little White Van:** (R) **7.10** **7 Bananas in Pajamas:** (R) **7.25** **Make Way for Noddy:** (R) **7.35** **City of Friends:** (R) **7.55** **The Little Princess:** (R) **8.10** **The Adventures of Bob the Bill and the Cow:** (R) **8.20** **Wanda and the Alien:** **8.35** **Rupert Bear:** (R) **8.50** **Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom:** (R) **9.10** **Jelly Jammy:** (R) **9.25** **LazyTown:** (R) **9.55** **Access:** **10.00** **Police Interceptors:** (R) **10.55** **Police Interceptors:** (R) **11.50** **Police Interceptors:** **14.45** **Ultimate Police Interceptors:** (R) **1.45** **Film:** *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs*. (2009) Animated comedy, with the voice of Bill Hader. **3.30** **Film:** *Homebound* *Animal* *Lost in San Francisco*. (1996) Animal adventure sequel. **5.00** **Film:** *Paul Blart: Mall Cop*. (2009) Comedy, starring Kevin James. **7.05** **5 News Weekend:** **7.10** **Film:** **10,000 BC**. (2008) In prehistoric times, a young mammoth-hunter bravely combats ferocious creatures as he journeys across the wilderness to rescue his captive friend Michael J. Fox, fellow villagers from brutal slave raiders. Roland Emmerich's fantasy adventure, starring Steven Strait, Camilla Belle, Cliff Curtis and Joel Grey. **9.00** **Film:** *Go in 60 Seconds*. (2006) A veteran car thief is forced out of retirement by his former partner Michael J. Fox. The thief agrees to help his former conartist, he asks his former cronies to help – but with the clock ticking and just a few days remaining to pull off the heist, their chances of success are hanging by a thread. Thriller, starring Nicolas Cage, Angelina Jolie and Robert Duvall. Part of the Legend of Cage night. **11.15** **Film:** *Bangkok Dangerous*. (2008) A hitman in Thailand goes on his way to find the trouble his employer plots to have him killed when his work is done. Action thriller remake, with Nicolas Cage and Shahkrit Yammarn. Part of the Legend of Cage night. **12.55** **SuperCasino**. **3.10** **The Gadget Show:** **4.00** **His Secret:** (R) **4.25** **Big Brother: The 2009 Xmas Special:** (R) **5.40** **Rio: The Big Canoe:** (R)

BBC

70.0's Top 3 Greatest Dance Crazes 7.5 Great Movie Mistakes IV: May the Fourth Be With You 8.5 Doctor Who 8.5 Film: Kung Fu Panda (2006) 9.0 Family Guy 10.45 Bad Education 11.15 American Dad! 12.00 Film: Annuashood (2011) 1.25 The Truth About Sinking 3.25 Bad Education 2.55 Parents' Evening 3.20 Bad Education 3.50 Close

BBC Four

70.0 The World's Most Beautiful Eggs: The Genius of Carl Fabergé 8.0 Byzantium: A Tale of Three Cities 9.0 British Art at War: Bernbach, Sickert and Nash 10.00 Film: The Body (2009) 11.45 Queen: The Legendary 1975 Concert 12.30 Film: Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars (1973) 2.0 TOTP2 2.45 British Art at War: Bernbach, Sickert and Nash 3.45 Close

ITV2

12.25 The X Factor 1.40 The X Factor Act: 2.15 You've Been Framed! 2.45 Film: Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang (2010) 4.55 Film: Despicable Me (2010) 6.50 Film: The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor (2008)

9.00 The X Factor: 10.00 Bad Bridesmaid 11.00 Tricked 12.30 The X Factor 1.05 The X Factor Act: 2 Two and a Half Men 2.45 Teleshopping 5.45 ITV2 Nightvision

ITV3

11.50 Inspector Morse 10.45 The Big Bang Theory 1.00 Carry On Below That Carnel (1967) 5.05 Film: Columbo: Murder by My Mother Notes 7.00 Lewis 9.00 The Best of the Royal Variety Show 10.00 Film: Gosford Park (2001)

12.50 William and Mary 2.40 Judge Judge Judge 3.00 ITVS Nightgreen 3.15 Emmerdale

ITV4

11.00 Live British Touring Car Championship. The ninth round of the season from Silverstone. 6.30 BRD Formula 4 Championship Highlights 7.30 Storage Wars 8.00 Friendship Rugby Union 9.00 Films: The Monster (1997) 11.40 Hell on Wheels 12.35 River Monsters 1.35 Breakout 2.25 Motorway Patrol 3.00 Teleshopping

12.30 How I Met Your Mother 2.00 Melissa & Joe 3.00 Suburgatory 3.30 New Girl 4.00 The Big Bang Theory 5.00 The 100 6.00 2 Broke Girls 7.00 The Big Bang Theory 8.00 Film: The Godfather Part II (1974) 10.00 The Big Bang Theory 11.00 Glue 12.15 Rules of Engagement 1.15 Rude Tube All Things Weird and Wonderful

12.20 The Ricky Gervais Show 2.45 The Cleveland Show 3.10 Hollyoaks

Film4

11.00 Blossoms in the Dust (1941) 1.10 Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country (1991) 3.05 Mad Money (2008) 5.10 Romanticizing the Stone Age (1974) 7.15 Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer (2007) 9.10 The Day After Tomorrow (2004) 11.00 Neefs (2010) 1.40 Conf. and 1.93 of the Silvers



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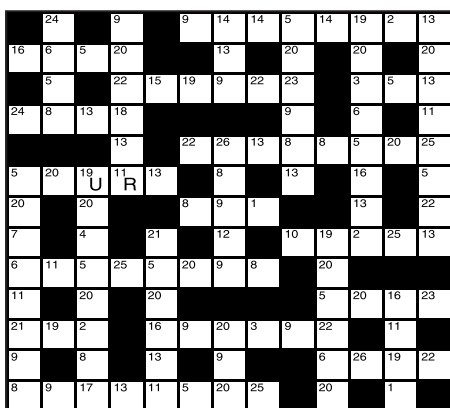
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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

P	L	V	J	Y	N	T	U	Z	D	R	C	G
X	B	S	H	F	O	Q	W	M	I	E	K	A

1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

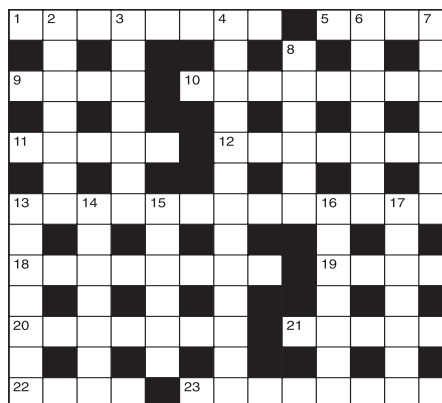
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- Request written with certain enjoyment (8)
- Dance all round? (4)
- Of concern to the listener (4)
- Such people want knowledge - then may not want it! (8)
- One way to go right out East (5)
- Sort of tactile network (7)
- Capital parents, but they produce strains (5,8)
- Taken ill (8)
- The fools pop back on board (4)
- Left before the end to give a warning (7)
- Emotional shocks of revolutions (5)
- Dancers may enjoy a quick one (4)
- Advances or returns (8)

Down

- Admits - or just the opposite (4,3)
- He's austere and sour about one point (7)
- He takes each issue at it comes (7,6)
- It makes a man keen on money, and a woman on food (7)
- Landlords who are characters? (7)
- Hate arises from a hotel mix-up (6)
- Voyage to the East on board shipping lines (7)
- Verbose sort of notice (7)
- A dog's home (6)
- Argue about being put in the wrong side (7)
- Was discontented about a tree put in the shade (7)



Quick Clues:

Across

- Choosing (8)
- Deeds (4)
- Consumer (4)
- Filter (8)
- Vacillate (5)
- Presage (7)
- Great Britain and Northern Ireland (6,7)
- Edifice (8)
- Detail (4)
- Stir (7)
- Wander (5)
- Lustreless (4)
- Miscellaneous (8)

Down

- Scorn (7)
- Faultless (7)
- Candour (13)
- Strive (7)
- Slavery (7)
- Infertile (6)
- Rebuke (7)
- Beginning (7)
- Cause to love (6)
- Sparkle (7)
- Work (7)

Sudoku

				9				5
7		5	4		3	8		
	9		7		5		4	
1	7		2		6		5	
		6			9	4		
	4		1		7		2	
	2			9	6	8		1
		8	3		4	5		
		4		7				

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

5	9	4	2	1	3	6	7	8
1	8	7	5	6	9	3	4	2
3	6	2	8	4	7	5	1	9
4	7	5	3	8	2	9	6	1
9	1	3	7	5	6	8	2	4
8	2	6	1	9	4	7	3	5
2	5	1	3	8	4	9	7	6
7	3	9	4	2	5	1	8	6
6	4	8	9	7	1	2	5	3

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTOIC - Across: 1 Alcove; 4 Teasel; 9 Speech therapy; 10 Interim; 11 Alder; 12 Extra; 14 Chord; 18 Cramp; 19 Atrophy; 21 Indisposition; 22 Target; 23 Reveal. Down: 1 Assail; 2 Chest expander; 3 Vicar; 5 Eye-wash; 6 Standard price; 7 Layers; 8 Stump; 13 Riposte; 15 Script; 16 Baton; 17 Hymnal; 20 Raise. QUICK - Across: 1 Tattle; 4 Rescue; 9 Taking a chance; 10 Honeyed; 11 Curve; 12 Prize; 14 Alive; 18 Paste; 19 At first; 21 Consternation; 22 Dormer; 23 Grille. Down: 1 Tetchy; 2 Taken prisoner; 3 Lanky; 5 Ethical; 6 Controversial; 7 Eyelet; 8 Handy; 13 Shreate; 15 Spiced; 16 Marry; 17 Stance; 20 Flair.

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ClassifiedAds

Refurbished semi has price tag of £135,000



A RECENTLY refurbished three-bedroom semi-detached home in Wolseley Road, West Bromwich comes with a garden and outbuilding.

It is for sale through Worton Kelly at £135,000.

With double glazing and gas central heating it has a hall, lounge with new carpet and blinds, kitchen with ceiling spotlights and patio doors out to the garden, three bedrooms (all with fitted carpets and blinds), a bathroom with WC, wash hand basin, bath with shower over, splash-back tiling and ceramic floor tiling, a garage and outbuilding and a garden.

For further information contact Worton Kelly on 0121 5885666 or visit www.wortonkelly.com



Three-bed terrace ideal family home

A WELL-maintained three-bedroom end terrace house in Blower Green Crescent, Dudley is an ideal family home.

It is for sale through Skitts Estate Agents at £119,950.

With gas central heating and some double glazing, it has an entrance hall, WC, living room with gas fire, dining room, kitchen with ceramic wall tiling, fitted breakfast bar, built-in oven with four ring gas hob and stainless steel cooker hood, three bedrooms (one with laminate flooring), a bathroom with a white suite and rear garden with a patio.

For further information contact Skitts Estate Agents on 01884 214996 or visit www.skitts.net



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CLOISTER DRIVE, HALESOWEN,
NO CHAIN
● Executive Style Detached Property EPC Rating C
● Lounge Dining Room Study Breakfast Kitchen Conservatory
● Master Bedroom With En-suite Three Further Bedrooms Family Bathroom
● Driveway Double Garage Front and Rear Gardens
● Cul-de-sac location No Upward Chain Viewing Recommended
£315,000 QUINTON ☎ 0121 421 7766



BENT AVENUE, QUINTON,
NO CHAIN
● Stunning Five Bedroom Residence EPC Rating F
● Currently Being Refurbished To A High Standard
● Large Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen And Study
● Five Bedrooms, En-suite, Family Bathroom
● Viewing Essential
£325,000 QUINTON ☎ 0121 421 7766



OAKHAM AVENUE, DUDLEY,
REDUCED
● Extended Detached Property EPC Rating D
● Two Reception Rooms Kitchen Utility Room Downstairs Shower Room W/C
● Four Bedrooms Family Bath Shower Room W/C
● Black Paved Drive Garage and Garden To The Rear
● Property Internal Viewing Highly Recommended To Appreciate Accommodation
Offers Over £230,000 QUINTON ☎ 0121 421 7766



HIGH STREET, QUINTON,
REDUCED
● Period Mid Terrace Property EPC Rating E
● Good Size Lounge Kitchen Dining Room
● Four Bedrooms and Bathroom W/C
● Enclosed Garden To The Rear
● Internal Inspection Essential To Appreciate Accommodation
Offers Over £180,000 QUINTON ☎ 0121 421 7766



STONEHOUSE LANE, QUINTON,
NO CHAIN
● Traditional Semi Detached Property EPC Rating D
● Two Reception Rooms Kitchen Utility Area
● Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/C
● Driveway Garage Front Garden Good Size Rear Garden
● Property Is Located On Service Road Having No Upward Chain
£150,000 QUINTON ☎ 0121 421 7766



FARM ROAD, OLDBURY,
● Traditional Semi Detached Property EPC Rating D
● Through Lounge/Dining Room Kitchen Conservatory
● Three Bedrooms And Bathroom W/C
● Black Paved Driveway Spacious Rear Garden
● Refurbished To A High Standard Viewing Recommended
£145,000 QUINTON ☎ 0121 421 7766



RIDGACRE ROAD, QUINTON,
NEW
● Semi Detached Property EPC Rating
● Lounge Open Plan Kitchen Dining Room Conservatory
● Three Bedrooms Bath/ShowerRoom W/C
● Black Paved Frontage Garden To The Rear
● Property Benefits From Having No Upward Chain
£140,000 QUINTON ☎ 0121 421 7766



St KATHERINES ROAD, OLDBURY,
REDUCED
● Traditional Semi Detached Property EPC Rating D
● Through Lounge Open Plan Kitchen/Conservatory
● Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/C
● Garage Driveway Front and Rear Gardens
● Recently Refurbished Viewing Recommended No Upward Chain
Offers Over £135,000 QUINTON ☎ 0121 421 7766



STONEHOUSE LANE, QUINTON,
● End Of Terrace Property EPC Rating C
● Lounge/Dining Kitchen Store Room To Ground Floor
● Two Bedrooms and Bathroom To First Floor
● Front and Rear Gardens Detached Double Garage To The Rear
● Internal Inspection Recommended
£125,000 QUINTON ☎ 0121 421 7766



BEECHDALE, PERRY HILL RD, OLDBURY,
NO CHAIN
● First Floor Apartment EPC Rating E
● Lounge/Dining Room Kitchen Two Bedrooms Bathroom
● Property Benefits From Electric Heating and a Part Double Glazed
● Extensive Three Acre General Garden and Non Allocated Parking Area
● Property Further Benefits From A Garage En-bloc and No Upward Chain
£100,000 QUINTON ☎ 0121 421 7766



TITFORD LANE, ROWLEY REGIS,
NEW
● Detached Property EPC Rating D
● Through Lounge Kitchen To Ground Floor
● Three Bedrooms Bathroom To First Floor
● Driveway Front and Rear Gardens
● Property Benefits From Having No Upward Chain
£99,950 QUINTON ☎ 0121 421 7766



SEYMOUR ROAD, OLDBURY,
REDUCED
● Traditional Terraced Property EPC Rating D
● Excellent Condition Throughout
● Two Reception Rooms
● Two Bedrooms and Bathroom To The First Floor
● Front and Rear Gardens Parking Area
● Viewing Highly Recommended
£85,000 QUINTON ☎ 0121 421 7766



HURST GREEN ROAD, HALESOWEN
● Three Storey Town House EPC Rating D
● Ground Floor Reception Room and Integral Garage
● Lounge Kitchen and Bathroom To First Floor
● Master Bedroom With En-suite plus Two Further
£105,000 DUDLEY ☎ 01384 455000



JIGGINS LANE, BARTLEY GREEN,
TO LET
● Traditional Bay Fronted Semi Detached Property EPC Rating D
● Lounge Kitchen Dining Area
● Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/C
● Off Road Parking To Front Shared Drive To Garage Garden To The Rear
● Property Recently Re-furbished Immediate Availability Viewing Recommended
£690 pcm QUINTON ☎ 0121 421 7766



BODENHAM ROAD, OLDBURY,
TO LET
● Immaculate End Terrace Property EPC Rating E
● Lounge, Spacious Dining Kitchen Conservatory
● Three Bedrooms Family Bathroom
● Driveway To The Front Garden To The Rear
● Viewing Highly Recommended To Appreciate Accommodation
£600 pcm QUINTON ☎ 0121 421 7766



MANOR ROAD, SMETHWICK,
TO LET
● Detached Bungalow EPC Rating C
● Lounge Kitchen Two Bedrooms Bathroom
● Drive To The Front Garden To The Rear
● Property Benefits From Central Heating And Double Glazing
● Viewing Recommended Immediate Availability
£595 pcm QUINTON ☎ 0121 421 7766



FARLEY COURT, OLDBURY ROAD, OLDBURY,
TO LET
● Ground Floor Apartment EPC Rating C
● Open Plan Lounge and Kitchen
● Two Bedrooms En-suite to Master plus Further Bathroom
● Allocated Parking Area To Rear Of Block
● Viewing Recommended
£535 pcm QUINTON ☎ 0121 421 7766



WATERWAYS DRIVE, OLDBURY,
TO LET
● Mid Terrace Property EPC Rating C
● Lounge and Kitchen To The Ground Floor
● Two Bedrooms and Bathroom To The First Floor
● Front and Rear Gardens Parking Area
● Subject To References Immediate Availability
£495 pcm QUINTON ☎ 0121 421 7766

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EPC D

Lodgefield Road, Halesowen

£195,000

Modern detached property comprising lounge, kitchen, laundry area, conservatory, WC, three bedrooms, family bathroom, garage and rear garden.



Awaiting EPC

Gower Road, Halesowen

£180,000

An extended traditional three bedroom semi detached house comprising two reception rooms, extended kitchen and family bathroom. Outside the property benefits from an enclosed rear garden and driveway parking to the front.



Public Notice



EPC E

£100,000

30 BROMSGROVE STREET, HALESOWEN, B63 3JE. We are acting in the sale of the above property and have received an offer of £80,000.

Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before an exchange of contracts takes place. EPC Rating E

King Street, Cradley Heath



EPC C



£87,500

Modern ground floor apartment comprising lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms, en-suite, bathroom, allocated parking and communal

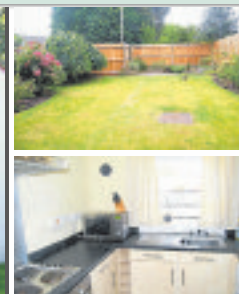


EPC D

Mendip Road, Halesowen

£125,000

A rare opportunity to buy a coach house style flat with fabulous private rear garden on the Squirrels development. Viewing recommended.



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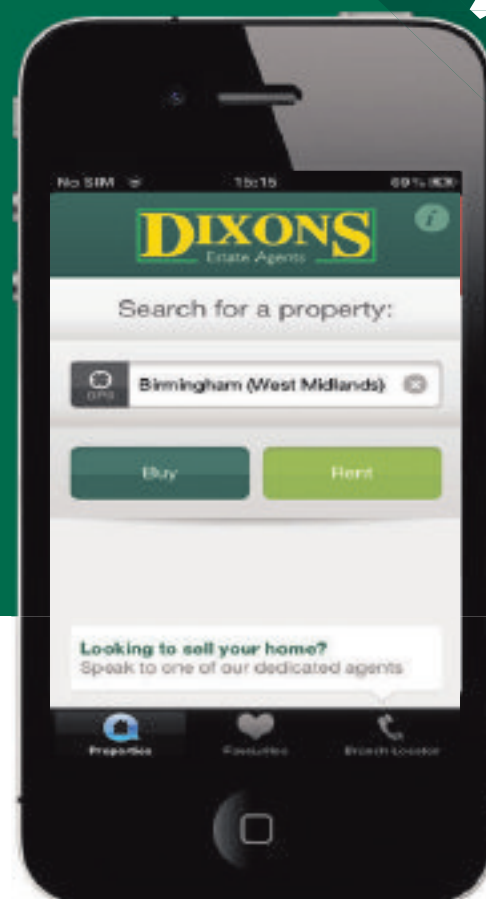
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0121 585 6667**Halesowen Office Lettings & Property Management****HALESOWEN, Hagley Road£825 pcm - Fees**
An unfurnished detached house within close proximity of Halesowen. Briefly comprising Of: 3 Bedrooms, large lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom with separate w.c, driveway parking & garage, double glazing, gas central heating (new boiler) EPC: D**HALESOWEN, Banners Lane£775 pcm - Fees**
An unfurnished 3 bedroom detached family home with gas central heating and off road parking for 3 cars. This great property has entrance porch, hallway with Minton tiled floor, front lounge, modern good size kitchen with French doors leading to the conservatory, utility room, 3 bedrooms and a family bathroom with shower. To the front of the property is off road parking and to the rear a large private garden with raised decking area. EPC: D**STOURBRIDGE, Crystal Gardens£775 pcm - Fees**
A fantastic opportunity to rent a new build home on a select development 'Crystal Gardens' features homes of 3 generous size bedrooms (master with en-suite) finished to an exceptional standard. Featuring spacious lounge/dining areas, well appointed kitchens, downstairs WC, 3 bedrooms with family bathrooms & master bedroom with en-suite, 2 allocated parking spaces, front & rear gardens. These homes will not be available for long. EPC: TBC**WITHYMOOR, Aldeford Drive£725 pcm - Fees**
Well presented semi detached house situated on this popular estate. Occupying a quiet cul de sac location. Featuring entrance hall, attractive lounge with beautiful kitchen with Belfast sink, conservatory, rear garden. To the 1st floor there are 3 bedrooms and a family bathroom, garage with electronic doors and drive, gas central heating and double glazing. Not to be missed! EPC: TBC**HALESOWEN, Newfield Crescent£750 pcm - Fees**
Stunning large 3 bedroom semi-detached in this very popular location, close to town centre and schools. Front lounge, large open plan kitchen with island, dining & living area leading to patio doors and back garden. Downstairs shower room/utility area, 2 double bedrooms, master with en-suite and dressing area, 1 single bedroom, house bathroom with large jacuzzi bath. EPC: TBC**HALESOWEN, Brades Close£695 pcm - Fees**
An unfurnished detached house in a very quiet cul-de-sac location. This property features 4 bedrooms, 2 of which have en-suites, through lounge/dining area, fitted breakfast kitchen, downstairs WC. This property also benefits from a garage and driveway parking, rear garden with views. Viewing highly recommended. EPC: D**ROWLEY REGIS, Spring Vale Road£695 pcm - Fees**
An opportunity to acquire a well maintained traditional three bedroom detached property situated in a popular residential location in a quiet cul-de-sac close to local schools, amenities and road links. Featuring a large living room, fitted kitchen with a double range cooker, downstairs w.c, 2 double & 1 single bedroom/study. Bathroom with shower, driveway/garage. A lovely property not to be missed. EPC: TBC**ROWLEY REGIS, Queens Drive£650 pcm - Fees**
A fully refurbished 3 bedroom semi detached house in a popular location. This house features a welcoming entrance hall, front lounge with a bay window, brand new fitted kitchen/diner, brand new bathroom with shower, off road parking for 2 vehicles, rear garden, gas central heating, double glazing. EPC: TBC**ROWLEY REGIS, Bryan Budd Close£650 pcm - Fees**
Fully redecorated on a quiet modern estate, ideally situated for M5 and Blackheath Town Centre. This lovely semi-detached house features a light airy lounge, kitchen/dining area with patio doors to rear garden, 2 double & 1 single bedroom, family bathroom, driveway parking. Viewing essential. EPC: TBC**CRADLEY HEATH, Wesley Close£650 pcm - Fees**
Deceptively spacious 3 bedroom modern house ideal for Old Hill train station, shops and bus links. This beautiful house features a lounge/dining area, fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms, master en-suite, family bathroom, garden, driveway & garage to front. Available immediately. EPC: D**HALESOWEN, Haden Arch Court£575 pcm - Fees**
Contemporary living in Halesowen. This 1st floor spacious apartment above the archway, within walking distance to Halesowen Town Centre and buses, the apartment features gas central heating, double glazing, open plan living room/ fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with separate shower cubicle, allocated parking. EPC: B**HAGLEY, Newlands Close £575 pcm - Fees**
A superb modern ground floor apartment located near to Hagley Village & situated close to motorway links. Featuring an open plan lounge/ kitchen with appliances, double bedroom with fitted wardrobes and en-suite shower room & 1 large single bedroom. white bathroom suite, allocated parking, secure entry system. Not to be missed!! EPC: C**HALESOWEN, Brett Young Close£570 pcm - Fees**
An impressive part furnished 1st floor apartment within walking distance to Halesowen Town Centre. Comprising 2 double bedrooms, master bedroom with en-suite, spacious lounge with a leather sofa, contemporary kitchen, house bathroom with shower, allocated parking. Well worth viewing. EPC: B**CRADLEY HEATH, Station Road£550 pcm - Fees**
A newly decorated & carpeted 3 bedroom mid terraced house in this popular location minutes away from Old Hill train station. This spacious property has: 2 reception rooms, downstairs walk in shower room, modern fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms & 1 single. Private rear garden. On road parking. EPC: E**CRADLEY HEATH, Luanne Close£500 pcm - Fees**
Wonderfully presented and with its own balcony. A 1st floor modern apartment, ideally located for Old Hill train station and local shops benefits from 1 double bedroom and 1 single bedroom, modern kitchen with washer/dryer, lovely lounge with access to your own private balcony, house bathroom with shower, allocated parking. EPC: B**CRADLEY HEATH, Mossvale Close£550 pcm - Fees**
Been tastefully refurbished to a high standard and within walking distance of Old Hill train station is this 3 bedroom mid terraced property comprising: 2 large double and 1 large single bedrooms, spacious lounge, fitted kitchen, house bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing, downstairs w.c., small rear garden, garage at rear of property. EPC: TBC**HALESOWEN, Stour Court £525 pcm - Fees**
A great opportunity to rent this spacious and well proportioned ground floor apartment in a popular location. Large & airy living room, fully fitted kitchen with appliances, 2 double bedrooms, white bathroom suite with shower. Outside there is allocated parking and communal gardens. EPC: C**HALESOWEN, Cavalier Drive£495 pcm - Fees**
Located within walking distance of central Halesowen. This modern unfurnished 3rd floor apartment, briefly comprising of: spacious living room with a door leading to your own balcony, fitted kitchen with white goods, 2 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, communal gardens, allocated parking space. EPC: D**HALESOWEN, Upper Ashley Street£475 pcm - Fees**
Undergoing a complete re-decoration. Set in this quiet residential area close to Blackheath Town Centre is this lovely semi detached home featuring lounge, fitted kitchen with gas oven/hob, 1 double bedroom, brand new bathroom with shower, electric heating, parking, unfurnished. EPC: TBC**HALESOWEN, Howley Grange Road£440 pcm - Fees**
Unfurnished ground floor apartment available in this popular location. The property features gas central heating Living room/fitted kitchen with archway through to 1 double bedroom, shower room, allocated parking. Gas (in winter months) and water rates included in the rental. EPC: C**OLDURY, Mallard Drive £425 pcm - Fees**
Well presented modern ground floor one bedroom apartment in this great location close to motorway links and amenities. Reception hall with intercom, lounge, open plan kitchen with appliances, 1 double bedroom with built in wardrobe, shower room, electric storage heaters, communal garden, allocated parking. Not to be missed! EPC: C**PROPERTY**

Two-bedroom residence that dates back to 1857

**THE Cott, at 80 Mushroom Green, Dudley Wood, dates back to 1857 and lies in a conservation area.**

Perfect for downsizers looking for a tranquil bungalow near amenities, the two-bedroom residence also has a loft with conversion potential, which already has a radiator.

Steeped in history, and formally known as the Tuck Shop, it is for sale through Andrew Grant at £270,000.

It has a reception hall, sitting room, kitchen, orangery, two bedrooms, two bathrooms, a garage and rear garden.

For further information contact Andrew Grant on (01384) 370232 or visit www.andrew-grant.co.uk

Detached family home is new on housing market

**A THREE-BEDROOMED detached house in Vicarage Road, West Bromwich, has just joined the property market. It is for sale through Bartrams at £127,000.**

With central heating and double glazing it has an entrance hall with a stained glass window, WC, lounge with bay window and doors to the rear, kitchen with electric cooker and hob, extractor fan, splash back tiling and vinyl flooring.

There is a bathroom with shower, three bedrooms and rear garden with greenhouse and shed.

Call 0121 6019370 or visit the website www.bartrams.com

New direction with the S-Cross

The march of the SUV, or sports utility vehicle, shows no signs of slowing down with several manufacturers announcing their first foray into this field in the past few months.

SUVs are mainly cars with the tall, chunky looks of the off-roader even if most of them aren't: buyers seem to balance appearances with two-wheel drive to save weight, fuel and costs.

It may be a surprise then that Suzuki, with its iconic Vitara and a history of almost half a century of 4x4s, has gone down a different route with its new S-Cross.

Still in car parlance a crossover (the clue's in the name), it's a family-sized hatchback with two or four-wheel drive options that's relatively economical to buy and run.

Top models have a newly developed and sophisticated four-wheel drive system to suit most conditions while remaining lively and economical – and with prices from £21,549 it costs less than some of its two-wheel drive opponents.

Its ALLGRIP system was made specifically for this car: not as many compromises as the traditional full-blown system in the Jimny, but more flexible than the ultra-lightweight rear differential developed for the smaller Swift 4x4.

Clearance

It gives the S-Cross extra capability on and off-road, where the main limiting factor is ground clearance. It certainly made light work of the forest tracks and streams encountered on a test route in the north of England, but unlike a traditional 4x4 remained economical, sharp handling and a comfortable ride on the highway.

There are two engine options, a 1.6 petrol and 1.6 diesel. The petrol version is capable of averaging almost 40mpg while the diesel's figure is a frugal 64mpg. Their 0 to 62mph sprint times are 12 and 13 seconds respectively.

Suzuki's engineers have also come up with an excellent compromise with the suspension: it's supple enough to soak up the bumps on rough tracks yet not so soft as to give you a roly-poly ride on the road. Its dimensions, without the top heavy architecture of some SUV's, helps too.

The steering is nicely weighted and positive, and from its road manners you'd never guess this was a car quite capable of roughing it.

It's as quiet and relaxing to drive as any modern hatchback, it's light but particularly stiff body aiding performance and economy while also reducing noise in the cabin.

No-one, Suzuki included, imagines you'd buy an S-Cross for serious mud-plugging: it's more for the country dweller



who has rough and muddy lanes to travel, or someone who wants extra safety and security in bad weather.

The ALLGRIP control gives you a clue. The basic setting is 'auto' so the car remains in front wheel drive until they start to slip, when the rear wheels are brought into play too. It's there as a safety back-up while giving you best day to day economy. The 'snow' setting, unsurprisingly, uses four-wheel drive as the default setting while also optimises steering and accelerator inputs for maximum traction. The 'lock' mode gives you four-wheel drive for getting yourself out of mud, sand or snow.

There are 13 different S-Cross models, starting with a two-wheel drive petrol version at £14,999. There are two automatic versions, one two wheel drive and one four wheel drive, with a continuously variable transmission.

The top of the range versions are all fitted with ALLGRIP 4WD and are also the highest trim levels, which explains their price tag of up to £23,549 for the diesel flagship. The

diesels also get a six-speed transmission compared to the petrol's five gears. The diesel is also the most economical, with an official average of 64.2mpg and 114g/km of CO2 emissions compared to the petrol's 51.3mpg and 135g/km.

The decision, as always, will depend on how much you have to spend and, with diesel up to 10p per litre more expensive these days, how many miles you do as to which is best for you.

While it may look smaller than some SUV rivals, the S-Cross is surprisingly roomy inside, with decent leg and headroom for five. It also has a generous cargo space, with a 430-litre boot for your luggage, which you can double by folding down the rear seats. The cabin has a solid, quality feel to it with refreshingly clear and logical controls.

The company has pitched the car just right: a spacious family transporter with an efficient four-wheel drive system for safety and flexibility without sacrificing much in the way of performance or precious fuel.

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Official Fuel Consumption Figures for the Suzuki Alto range mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km): Urban 43.5-54.3 (6.5-5.2), Extra Urban 65.7-74.3 (4.3-3.8), Combined 55.4-65.7 (5.1-4.3), CO₂ emissions 118-99 g/km and **for the Suzuki Splash range mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km):** Urban 40.9-50.4 (6.9-5.6), Extra Urban 56.5-67.3 (5.0-4.2), Combined 49.6-60.1 (5.7-4.7), CO₂ emissions 131-109 g/km and **for the Suzuki SX4 range mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km):** Urban 32.5-42.8 (8.7-6.6), Extra Urban 50.4-60.1 (5.6-4.7), Combined 42.2-53.3 (6.7-5.3), CO₂ emissions 155-139 g/km and **for the Suzuki Swift range mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km):** Urban 41.5-46.3 (6.8-6.1), Extra Urban 57.6-64.2 (4.9-4.4), Combined 50.4-56.5 (5.6-5.0), CO₂ emissions 128-116 g/km.

The above fuel consumption figures are based on an EU test for comparative purposes only and may not reflect real driving results. *Model shown: Alto SZ4 available from £7,999 (Metallic paint available at £399). *VAT free offer on Alto range: Alto 1.0 SZ4 available from £5,999, including customer saving of £1,200 to Alto 1.0 SZ4 A/T available at £8,625 including customer saving of £1,724 equivalent to VAT amount of previous on the road price of £7,199 (SZ) and £10,349 (SZ4 A/T). *Model shown: Splash SZ4 available from £9,899 (Metallic paint available at £415). *VAT free offer on Splash range: Splash 1.0 SZ4 available from £7,999, including customer saving of £1,600 to Splash 1.2 SZ4 A/T available at £10,645 including customer saving of £2,129 equivalent to VAT amount of previous on the road price of £9,599 (SZ2) and £12,774 (SZ4 A/T). *Model shown: SX4 SZ5 available from £13,249 (Metallic paint available at £430). *VAT free offer on SX4 range: SX4 1.6 SZ3 available from £10,495, including customer saving of £2,100 to SX4 SZ5 4x4 available at £13,249 including customer saving of £2,650 equivalent to VAT amount of previous on the road price of £12,595 (1.6 SZ3) and £15,899 (1.6 SZ5 4x4). *Model shown: Swift SZ4 available from £12,199 (Metallic paint available at £430). *VAT free offer on Swift range: Swift 1.2 SZ2 3dr available from £8,999, including a customer saving of £1,800 to Swift 1.2 SZ4 5dr 4x4 available at £13,699 including customer saving of £2,740 which is equivalent to the VAT amount of the previous on the road price of £10,799 (SZ2 3dr) and £16,439 (SZ4 5dr 4x4). VAT free offer excludes Swift Sport. VAT equivalent reduction is not available on vehicle options or accessories. VAT Free offer excludes Swift Sport. For full details contact your local participating Suzuki Dealer. Offer subject to availability for vehicles privately registered between 1st July 2014 to 30th September 2014 from participating Authorised Suzuki Dealers only. Offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers. All prices and specifications correct at time of going to print.

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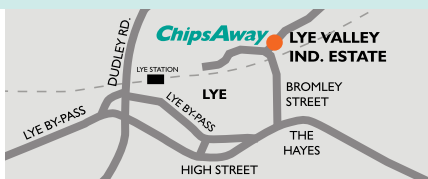
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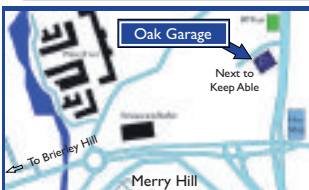
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DRIVETIME



'Reds' meet face to face

The Infiniti high-performance prototype super-saloon – the Q50 Eau Rouge – has finally come face to face with Eau Rouge, the signature high-speed corner of the famed Spa-Francorchamps race circuit in Belgium, from which the car takes its name.

Sebastian Vettel, Infiniti's director of performance and four-time Formula One World Drivers' Champion, had the honour of putting the car through its paces as part of a social media powered race against US professional race driver Parker Kligerman and Nine-Ball World Champion snooker player Pan Xiaoting of China.

Spa's notoriously fickle weather

was true to form with heavy rain dousing the track throughout Vettel's test run in the Q50 Eau Rouge.

Vettel has been involved in the ongoing development of the Q50 Eau Rouge prototype which was first revealed as a design concept vehicle at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit in January this year.

"Even though it was difficult to get a proper feel for the car's performance due to the wet track, the engineering team have made definite improvements to the car in the areas of steering and suspension since I first drove it earlier in the year," said Vettel.

"There is no shortage of power from the Q50 Eau Rouge.

"All in all it was an interesting day and we had fun. It was a privilege to be given the task of driving the Q50 Eau

Rouge on one of the most demanding corners in the world."

The base engine inside the Q50 Eau Rouge is an aluminum and magnesium twin-turbo, 24-valve, 3.8-litre V6 powerhouse that is already an icon among sports car fans. For the Eau Rouge, with bespoke Infiniti engine mapping, air intake and exhaust, and F1-inspired aerodynamic body work, peak engine power is up to an exhilarating 560hp, with engine torque measured at 600Nm.

Originally a design concept of what a high-performance variant of the Infiniti Q50 premium sports saloon could look like, the Q50 Eau Rouge lives on as a dynamic development vehicle.

The decision to take the Infiniti Q50 Eau Rouge into production is currently under evaluation.

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6 Property

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5 Business & Farming

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MALE 33
5ft 5, dark, handsome.
WLTm attractive ladies 18-35 for relationship / Friendship.
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Enjoys travel, countryside, eating in and out.

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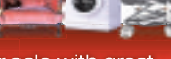
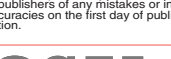
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Saturday Night from £139.⁹⁵

Dine and Dance from £149.⁹⁵

Take in a top West End show and have some free time in London for shopping and sight-seeing. For the Dine and Dance option see the matinee performance before heading back to the hotel for dinner and disco (conditions apply). For the Saturday Night option see the evening performance. For both breaks the price includes a theatre ticket, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel, with full English breakfast (plus dinner for Dine and Dance options). Pick ups offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

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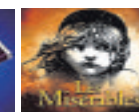
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*The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details.
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ARE you Mr Wonderful? Lesley attractive slim mature haired fit lady works a life and fully intends to live it to the full, seeking similar caring, patient man. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414213

SAMANTHA, solvent, sensual business women, 38yrs, travels a lot and seeks fun on the road. I'm married so please be discreet. Box: 4495859 Text Only

KATY 26 slim beautiful discreet blue eyed blonde looking for mature gent for some GSOH. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414209

MAUREEN, discreet sensual lady, 42yrs seeks daytime fun at her home. ACA. Tel No: 0905 002 1961 Box No: 405297

ANNABELLE 29 slim tanned beautiful sophisticated sensual brunnette, loves the high life, Champaign lunches, weekends away, seeks very own sugar daddy for sweet nothings. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414191

JASMINE, 22yrs, seeks older gent for daytime meetings as she works a nightshift most days. Box: 4495860 Text Only

SARAH 38yr old bored blonde seeking single guys up for some good times, chats and discreet meets. Looking forward to hearing from you. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414177

ANNA, busty mature lady seeks no strings discreet meetings with male any age or location. Tel No: 0905 002 1956 Box No: 366019

EMS 32yrs petite young looking, pretty, likes swimming, walking, talking etc, seeking honest bloke or dad up to 40yrs for fun adult friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413853

FIONA, young 32yrs, seeks uncomplicated fun with chap any age or area, texts only please. I'm nervous on the phone. Box: 4495861 Text Only

NATALIE 22yrs attractive brunnette nurse, very slim, athletic figure, many likes, few dislikes. WLTm male up to 38yrs to stay at home and have some fun with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413839

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CHRISTINA, curvy beauty, 27yrs, own home, very few adventurous seeks no strings fun and frolics. Can accommodate and will answer all calls. Tel No: 0905 002 1957 Box No: 410127

MAZ 36 petite curvy big blue eyes, loves music, beach walks, cosy nights with good conversation and nice wine, seeks similar likeminded male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413571

SALLY, 36yrs, married but husband works away seeks discreet gent any age for fun only. Text only Box: 4492484

HELEN feisty redhead with many interests including beach walks and quiet nights in, looking for male with GSOH and a passion for travel. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413869

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GILLY, voluptuous well groomed lady, seeks man to massage and pamper. Married exciting men please apply. Tel No: 0905 002 1933 Box No: 412933

ANN slim attractive widowed but not past being loved lady, loves travel, country good conversation, WLTm kind genuine male, 35-65 for ltr, Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413453

PHILLY, 20yrs, just left college, seeks older man for daytime fun, must be discreet as she has strict parents. Text only Box: 4492485

JANET tall beautiful brunnette, slim 12, separated, enjoys life, no hang ups, wanting quality time, friendship and possible romance with similar guy. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413415

ANN, young looking 40yrs seeks broadminded man of any age/location for no strings discreet times, games and more. ACA. Tel No: 0905 002 1937 Box No: 412369

ANITA seeking nice man in the West Midlands, 50-70 for companionship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413765

LINDY, 43yrs young, married with husband away. Seeks discreet gent any age/area for no strings. Box: 4459439 Text only

SONYA slim attractive vibrant lady with GSOH, social nature, fit/active, WLTm N/S male up to 60yrs for romantic genuine respectful relationship, loving. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413441

SOPHIA very sensual black lady looking to acquire a new distraction with lots of adult fun thrown in for good measure. Race/age/status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413399

JENNI, sensual lady, 23yrs seeks mature experienced man for no strings, daytime fun. Box: 4459440 Text only

EMMA petite slim blue eyed blonde 22yrs, likes cinema, dancing/music, just chillin, seeking easygoing male for fun and good times but nothing serious. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413207

EUROPEAN beauty romantic, caring, attentive, looking for loving male to enjoy warm loving relationship with, call me to find out more. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413013

KAREN 34 blue/green eyed size 12 attractive brunnette who loves pubs, cosy nights in, kids, seeking special honest guy/dad for poss ltr. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413005

ROSA 27 sexy senorita seeking older handsome prince charming to whisk me off my feet, enjoy fun times, improve my English and fall in love with. Age/race unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412927

RITA attractive blonde with a very kind heart seeks special man to share her life with. Please get in touch if like me you are fed up with always being the single friend. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412987

JAN 58yrs slim pretty lady in great shape, open-minded, laidback, GSOH, OHAC, many interests, WLTm someone for cuddling up with and to share good and bad times. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412931

ANN slim attractive N/S lady who is easy to get along with, looking for romantic interesting man for new adventures together, hopefully ltr. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412911

JULIE loving, caring, honest, seeks real gent to share conversation and have a great time, friendship/relationship, who knows? Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412777

SALLY stunning lady looking for dinner dates, partying and generally having a good time with generous man looking for his mojo! No strings, go on call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412599

DEBS petite attractive auburn haired, good listener, romantic, enjoys socialising, cosy nights in with Mr Right, seeking similar caring N/S single dad. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412387

JAN slim curvy professional woman, affectionate, looking to fill full time vacancy with similar male who loves cuddles/kisses and bikes for romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412167

ATTRACTIVE slim brunette, 47, N/S, seeks tall, slim male for a cut above the average GSOH. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412725

KAREN pretty blonde, short in stature, big personality, keeps fit, loves dogs, seeking honest, caring male who can make me laugh. Nothing too serious just fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412377

JEAN petite female who enjoys golf, days out, cosy evenings in, holidays, WLTm older male in his 60's with a good personality and big heart. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412359

JULIE really fun loving slim pretty female 38 looking for nice guy to go out with, get to know and hopefully enjoy a relationship with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411517

GWENDOLINE honest, trustworthy, seeks caring gent who enjoys cinema, theatre, holidays and nights out for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412293

DIANE voluptuous curvy and all woman, loves dancing, walking, cosy nights in, WLTm nice man for friendship, hopefully leading to something more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412321

SARA bored blonde looking for single gents for fun, chats and meets, looking forward to hearing from you, don't be shy. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412055

PROMOTIONAL ADVERT OF THE WEEK



ANN, young looking 40yrs seeks broadminded man of any age/location for no strings discreet times, games and more. ACA. BOX NUMBER 412369

EMMA petite young looking 31yr old attractive single brunnette, loves walking, talking, music, seeks honest romantic 30-40yrs. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412037

ANNABELL 29 slim sophisticated well travelled interesting sensual fit brunnette with lots of other seeks older male to appreciate and treat me well. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412177

KAREN slim, tall, attractive 36yr old normal female who likes shopping, socialising, nights in/out seeking thoughtful genuine male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412041

KIM 25yrs feminine, pretty, big blue eyes, GSOH, varied interests, likes romantic beach walks, cosy nights in, seeking honest loving man for ltr. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411777

CAROL young 47, caring, loyal, likes music, concerts, cinema, theatre, seeks male with similar interests for fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411919

PROFESSIONAL black lady, likes cooking, music, countryside, seeking honest, reliable gent, possibly far for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411763

VICKY 37yr professional, mum to one, sensual and very attractive, looking for a real man, tall, fit, sincere and passionate to enjoy each other's company. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411695

LUCY beautiful busty bubbly blonde 32yrs, seeking naughty boy to enjoy the fun side of life, with, age, status and looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411691

LINDA single and living alone, attractive, young looking, bubbly, WLTm similar young at heart companion to be close with, enjoy chats and romantic dates. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410119

WIDOW 68, 55yrs, medium build, attractive, likes walks, reading, holidays, seeks sincere, N/S male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411745

JEAN young at heart lady, active, 70 plus, N/S, GSOH, likes walks, gardening, outings, WLTm sincere, caring male, 69-74 for companionship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411711

TINA sexy black female looking for healthy distractions with fun adult companion, interested? You won't be disappointed, give me a call. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411519

LYNNE young looking attractive Indian female with GSOH and down to earth attitude, looking for likeminded male for date nights, hopefully more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412119

EMMIE 50, attractive brunnette, 5ft 3ins, OHAC, likes country walks, music, reading, seeks genuine, friendly, professional male with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412181

RETIRED happy, caring, attractive female, likes gardening, travel, animals, comedy, seeks tall, funny, kind chap, Shropshire. 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411459

RITA naughty 40's petite pretty female looking for that special man in my life, any age, to get to know and see what happens, you only live once remember! 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410959

SUE 34, likes most things in life, even football looking for my Mr Wonderful thought I would give this a try. Come on what do we have to lose, call me. 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410765

CAROL slim attractive blonde, sporty, easy going, broadminded looking for likeminded male with plenty of va va voom, 35-45. 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409717

SUSAN 64, lively, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411329

SUE 38, attractive broadminded attentive, enjoys meals in/out etc, not necessarily looking for Mr Right as Mr Wrong or even Mr Right now could be fun! Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411049

ANGIE attractive slim blonde just looking for a lovely spontaneous guy who like me just wants good company and a nice relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410641

KATHERINE 50yr old outgoing single female looking to enjoy dates with similar male also looking for fun times in or out. Age, looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410565

PAULINE attractive divorced female with no ties, employed with my own home, likes nights in/out, lots of tlc to give to the right person, call me for a chat, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410399

JEN attractive sensual petite blonde with OHAC seeks confident fit professional male to enjoy and share good times, if that's you pls get in touch. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410949

ARE you dark or bald, with hairy chest, well built, educated, verbal, articulate dom or sub, broadminded and ready to be put in your place? Curious to find out more? Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410543

25YR old black beautiful busty tall loving very sensual lady, likes football, making friends, seeking genuine white male for enjoyable loving relationship, pls no time wasters. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410577

YOUNG early 40's female, GSOH, kind, caring, considerate, seeks male for friendship, possible romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410847

CAROL 38 attractive romantic not looking for love, just happy endings, seeking lovely male to put the sparkle back into my life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410721

CLAIRE voluptuous tall feminine attractive lady who loves good company, fine wine/food, travel, WLTm tall professional for romance dates and hopeful ltr. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410627

LORRAINE 5ft 9ins, slim, 57, nurse, looking for someone to look after me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410543

MICHELLE 37, looking for laughter fun and romance with the right guy, if you could be him and have nothing to loose call me for a chat. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410415

TAYLOR 21 black beautiful class intelligent, loves to have lots of fun and enjoy life to the full, seeking mature guy to make me happy. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409911

SHARON very attractive British black lady, 40yrs, 6' looking for white male to take me on love with. Beautiful people can be lonely too. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409263

WENDY 50, blue eyes, 5ft 7ins, likes music, meals out, seeks white male, 45-55 with similar interests and GSOH for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410499

73YR old Hereford lady, GSOH, young at heart, many interests, seeks caring, genuine gent of similar age for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410331

NICKY bubbly curvy fun blonde, varied interests, enjoys meals out, holidays, seeking N/S male with GSOH for possible ltr. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410479

KAREN 32 a hardworking petite blonde, enjoys nights out, music, etc, WLTm for more than just friendship with similar chilled, kind, easy going guy. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410461

LIZ 5ft 7ins, attractive, outgoing, likes walks, dogs, cooking, seeks male for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410395

ZOE 25 long haired sensual female, very naughty, broadminded and open, looking for similar fun guy for uncomplicated adult meets. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409719

JANE attractive, feminine open-minded female genuinely looking for adult fun. No time wasters please. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409715

JILL 50, attractive, 5ft, blonde, own home, no ties, likes films, reading, travel, music, good social circle, seeking that someone special. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410105

ATTRACTIVE professional lady, 56, enjoys country walks, meals out, seeks professional gent with GSOH to enjoy the good things in life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408995

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ELAINE attractive 39yr old blonde single mum seeking respectful male/dad with similar interests for adult friendship, hopefully leading to love. looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410117

DONNA 27yrs blue eyed blonde with cute dimples, loves socialising but looking for that special someone with GSOH to cuddle up with, enjoy fun/good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409733

MARGARET OHAC, professional, sincere, adventurous, loving, kind, solvent lady who enjoys most things WLTm caring male with similar refined tastes. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407925

TALL divorced male looking for lady, small/med build for a long and happy relationship, non smokers please. I like hops, pubs, pictures, walking and more. Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4184039

JAMES, 45yrs, solvent caring gent, recently divorced seeks genuine lady to wine and dine. Single mums welcome. Box 4459441

EASY and Friendly Guy seeks Female 19 to 40 for good times and fun loving enjoyment. Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4502128

TALL divorced male looking for lady, small/med build for a long and happy relationship, non smokers please. I like hops, pubs, pictures, walking and more. Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4184039

TONY young looking 50's male, 5ft 8ins, many interests, easy going, seeks slim rock chick or similar for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413275

6FT 1ins slim, dark hair, likes walking, animals, seeking medium build female, 60-80 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413193

JEFF young 62, N/S, tall, fit, energetic, seeking new female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413053

MATURE male, 6ft, GSOH, fit, active, loving, honest, N/S, seeks woman with similar qualities. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414261

TRUSTWORTHY fit, active, caring, N/S, easy going male, 68, GSOH, seeks warm, genuine lady, 59-72 for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414151

EXTREMELY genuine! Life's true gent, 54, slim, 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, short hair, N/S, GSOH, seeks female, 41-52. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413925

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JOHN 40's, tall, athletic, active, adventurous, cheeky, tactile, fun, own teeth, loves life, seeks similar fun female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414067

34YR old slim, dark haired, creative, adventurous, likes music, cycling and photography, seeks likeminded female to share fun and happiness with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 352753

SEAN 47, 5ft 8ins, average looks, seeking genuine, honest, caring female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413945

PHIL 57, medium build, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414063

MALE requiring female company, enjoys evenings in, sports and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414059

GEORGE 60 seeks Asian/Oriental female for fun and weekends away. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413707

STEVE 60, seeks slim blonde for no strings fun and weekends away. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413703

ROBERT 59, N/S, fit, slim, seeks attractive slim female for discreet no strings friendship and fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413655

MALE 49, 6ft, seeks lady for discreet fun times. Must accom. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413819

ALAN 49, seeks lady for discreet no strings fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413757

BLACK guy 68, feels 45, looks 40, seeks female, 58-71, GSOH, genuine, caring for times and LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413375

TALL Indian gent, 53, seeks sensual lady for friendship plus, interesting chat, discreet days in and nights out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413315

JOHN 70, tall, slim, seeking female

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Covatti is so near to dream of GP glory

FORMER Brummies' speedway star Nico Covatti came within a whisker of a spot in the 2015 Grand Prix series following a spectacular display in the GP Challenge in Lonigo.

Having been handed a wildcard for the event, Covatti almost caused a major upset.

After notching three points from his opening two rides, the Birmingham favourite rounded Matej Zagar in stunning style to race to a marvellous win in heat 11.

When he dusted himself down from an opening bend fall to repeat the trick in his very next ride, Covatti was left with a real chance of qualifying entering his final ride.

Jason Doyle and Chris Harris quickly booked their place in the all-important top three – although when they were joined by Zagar, who is on course for a top-eight finish in the 2014 World Championship, the battle for fourth place became crucial.

Entering heat 19, Covatti knew a race win would see him overhaul Maciej Janowski and all but assure qualification for the 2015 GP campaign. In a re-run, though, he could only manage third place.

Caddis is praised by manager

BIRMINGHAM manager Lee Clark has given a passionate defence of Paul Caddis after supporters criticised his ability to play in central midfield.

Caddis was described as the 'weak link' by Blues fans on social media after the recent 2-0 defeat to Sheffield Wednesday, but Clark believes the criticism is unfair.

He said: "What Birmingham fans need to realise is I've scouted and watched Paul for many years and he plays a variety of positions, central midfield, right midfield and right-back. His most preferred position is central midfield.

"Paul struggled at times last season when he played at right-back."

Gardner hopes fans will see 'real' Baggies

MIDFIELDER Craig Gardner hopes fans will see the real Albion' after they claimed their first Premier League win under Alan Irvine.

The Baggies won 1-0 at Tottenham on Sunday to lift the pressure on new boss Irvine. And Gardner believes the confidence generated by the win at White Hart Lane will allow Albion to express themselves.

"It's nice to get the first win on the board," said Gardner. "We've got Burnley next, which is another massive game."

"The pundits on Sunday thought we were going to get hammered so it's a great buzz to prove them wrong. We know how

Football

good we are once we get playing and once we get our confidence up, so after Sunday hopefully people will start seeing the real West Brom.

"We knew we could do it. As a team we all knew how well we could play. We had been working all week on it and the gaffer got some brilliant points across before the game."

"He told us where they were weak around the back and it proved his point when

James Morrison got the goal. The way we played was fantastic because the gaffer had us working hard in the week and it paid off.

"It was our best performance and that's obviously because we're starting to get our full team out there."

"Joleon Lescott played on Sunday, Stephane Sessegnon was back and we have Youssouf Mulumbu and Victor Anichebe, who aren't fully fit, to come back. The more players we get back fully fit, the better we will be. You can't know what the gaffer is like until you work with him because he's a brilliant coach."

And Gardner joined the chorus of praise

for summer signing Joleon Lescott, who impressed on his debut at White Hart Lane.

"If he's got any more fitness to come I can't wait to play with him," joked Gardner.

Special

"His experience is amazing and when you look around and see him there it gives a big boost to the whole team."

Lescott himself declared his winning Albion debut 'extra special' as he hailed their tactical success. The former Wolves star produced a man-of-the-match performance.

Albion's first victory of the season lifted them up to fifth from bottom.

Lescott is inspiration for Albion, says Foster

BEN Foster is underlining Joleon Lescott's value to Albion after his stunning debut at Spurs.

The former Wolves, Everton and Manchester City star was man of the match in the Baggies' 1-0 win at White Hart Lane and England keeper Foster is convinced his mere presence in the side gives team-mates a lift.

Lescott, aged 32, has played at the very top with England and won titles with City and the Albion shot-stopper believes his influence could be key for Baggies in the months ahead.

"A lot of lads spark off Joleon. He has got that bit of an aura about him," said Foster. "All the lads around him raise their game when he's there. Fair play to 'Joe', the way he read the game on Sunday was absolutely incredible."

Surprise

"His vision is fantastic and it's nice to have players like that in front of you. We saw it with Craig Dawson as well, he was heading, kicking, blocking and everything. He was absolutely top class as well."

Albion boss Alan Irvine – to the surprise of many supporters – has stuck with Dawson despite a summer of uncertainty surrounding the 24-year-old.

Burnley were keen to sign the centre-half but Albion rejected their advances and he has been an ever-present this season, despite Gareth McAuley sitting on the sidelines.

And Foster was happy with his centre-halfs as they shut-out Spurs.

Football

"Joleon has been unlucky. He's had a few little knocks and injuries and when you don't get a good pre-season under your belt it can set you back a few weeks, and in Joleon's case a good month really," he added.

"He's been eager to get back in the starting line-up and he did himself no harm on Sunday with that performance, which was absolutely fantastic. If him and Daws are going to play like that every weekend it will help us no end."

"It was good to get off the mark with a win as well."

"If we hadn't won that, Burnley would have been a huge game, but we can take a lot of confidence from this going into Burnley now."

The England keeper has been frustrated by Albion's slow start and but is keen to remind the critics that they're not that far away from reaching top form. And he is highlighting Irvine's meticulous planning as one of the reasons behind the Baggies' revival.

"We knew exactly what we were going to do. We watched a lot of videos of Tottenham."

Last-minute kick in teeth for Old Halesonians



Pete Fitzgerald scores for Halesonians with Warren Oliver and Nathan Jones joining in the celebrations

Old Halesonians 24 Nuneaton 26
OLD Halesonians lost in the last minute to the league leaders.

Old Hales regrouped from last week's disappointment and took part in one of the best games seen at Waswell Grove for many years.

Hales put in an aggressive, powerful show of strength in all departments.

The home side's tackling was ferocious with Loz Breese, Tom Jordan

and Pete Fitzgerald leading the way.

On 25 minutes, the backs fed wing Luke Smith who outpaced his man for a try wide out converted by Chris Hooper.

Five minutes later, strong tackling in the backs saw Smith again collect the ball in midfield and sprint half of the pitch to again beat his winger for a try. Nuneaton came back with a penalty.

Fitzgerald set off on a run and the

try made it 19-3 at half time. But home scrum half Jones received a yellow card for a tackle. Tom Jordan then drove over for a 24-13 lead.

Then there was a period littered with penalties against Hales and it was pulled back to 24-20.

Another penalty put the visitors within a point and Nuneaton knocked over yet another penalty awarded on 79 minutes to win by just two points.

Dropped Olsson is 'still vital for team'

DELIGHTED Alan Irvine insists Jonas Olsson remains a key player for Albion after dropping the Swede for his first win as Baggies boss.

Irvine preferred summer signing Joleon Lescott for the 1-0 win at Tottenham with Olsson left at home after mistakes in the defeats to Swansea and Everton cost his side early goals.

Lescott responded with a commanding Baggies debut as James Morrison's goal gave Albion a first Premier League win of the season to ease the pressure on Irvine.

But the Scot insisted Olsson still has a major role to play.

"Jonas wasn't injured," said Irvine. "I spoke to him on Saturday and told him what my intentions were. That wasn't easy because I have a lot of respect for Jonas. He's a top professional."

"But he knows that he made a couple of uncharacteristic mistakes in the last couple of games that have been costly."

"For the first time I've had a full range of options available and that makes life more difficult in some ways because I had some big decisions to make and I had to look people in the eye to tell them why I was making them."

Moeen Ali is top man at awards

WORCESTERSHIRE star Moeen Ali has been named Professional Sportsman Of The Year at the Birmingham Sports Awards.

Birmingham Knights basketball Captain Michael Gayle and British sprinter Danny Talbot were also nominated for the award.

Birmingham-born Moeen, who was educated at Moseley School, broke into the England side for the winter tour of the West Indies and ICC World T20 tournament in Bangladesh.

Then Moeen played in all seven Tests this summer and picked up 19 wickets in the series against India in addition to scoring his maiden Test century. Moeen then helped Worcestershire gain promotion.

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SPORT

Baggies' progress Close encounter
Albion star Gardner in Old Hales just lose out to
vow to supporters leaders in a cracker
Page 43 **Page 43**



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Loan to Bolton is now finalised

ASTON Villa defender Chris Herd has completed a move to Bolton on a one-month loan deal.

The 25-year-old Australia international can play anywhere in defence.

Bolton boss Dougie Freedman said: "With the small squad we have got, I need to make sure when I sign a player that they can play one or two different positions."

"Chris ticks that box. He's going to be very valuable in a difficult run of games."

Meanwhile, Villa head to Chelsea on Saturday in the Premier League.

And defender Philippe Senderos is relishing a reunion with the Blues Cesc Fabregas.

The pair lived together during their early years at Arsenal and have maintained contact, with Fabregas crediting Senderos with helping him settle.

"We are still very good friends," said Villa's Senderos.

"We moved into digs together in the first year that I was in England and we still get on. So it is a long friendship."

"He didn't speak a word of English when he moved to Arsenal. So I was next to him and trying to help him in everything he needed. But he picked it up pretty quickly."

Trophy win is fifth in a row

HALESOWEN Swimming club have lifted the Braunstone Sports Trophy for the fifth year in a row.

Double event winners were Josh Bradley, James Cuthbert and Mark Laing.

Other individual winners were Lily Merrell, Jacob Darby and Jack Simpson.

The relay teams were strong with both the girls and boys age 13 and under teams, including Emma Bird, Amber Harrison, India Hanke, Robert Jennings and Owen Crump, unbeatable.

The 11 and under girls, including Isabelle Cashmore, Melissa and Sophie Parsons and Holly Simpson, won the freestyle relay.

The 15 and under girls of Molly Kelly, Lauren Hill and Talia Mitchell won the medley relay and the men's team, including Ryan Davies and Luke Morris, rounded off by winning the final freestyle relay.

Berahino leaves it late as Albion reach last 16

ALBION left it late to book their place in the last 16 of the Capital One Cup, where they will travel to Bournemouth.

Saido Berahino netted a last-gasp winner to add to the feelgood factor that has grown around The Hawthorns following the surprise win at Tottenham.

A totally new Baggies side bossed the first half last night (Wednesday) and deservedly led through a first goal from record signing Brown Ideye. But they found themselves behind as Tom Ince and Robbie Brady netted either side of half-time to fire Hull ahead against the run of play.

Football

Albion seemed to be heading out until Gareth McAuley's 88th-minute equaliser appeared to have set-up extra-time. And they went one better a minute later when substitute Berahino pounced on a pass from debutant Silvestre Varela and netted the goal that set up the last-16 tie at the Goldsands Stadium.

The Baggies opener arrived on 15 minutes with full debutants Liam O'Neil and Sebastian Blanco involved before Ideye

forced home a rebound from a Steve Harper save.

The Nigeria man got clattered as he finished, however, and his post-goal involvement consisted of another six, limping minutes. He was unable to shake off the knock and was replaced on 21 minutes by fellow summer arrival Georgios Samaras.

Albion had dominated the opening half but, four minutes before the interval, their defence went AWOL and gifted Hull an equaliser. Robbie Brady was given time and space to cross from the left and Ince was unmarked to fire the ball home.

Just five minutes into the second half more dismal Baggies defending allowed them to score a classy but all-too-easy second as Brady latched onto Hatem Ben Arfa's fine through-ball and produced a smart, first-time finish.

In the closing moments a 20-yard effort from Blanco was deflected wide for corner which resulted in the Baggies leveller, as O'Neil's flag-kick sparked pinball in the box and McAuley smashed home a half-volley. And just a minute later the turnaround was complete as Berahinoslotted the ball inside the far post from a tight angle.

Tividale beaten at home

TIVIDALE came up short against impressive Leek Town, going down to a 2-1 home defeat on Tuesday night.

On Leek's first attack they won a corner and the ball fell to Matt Bell whose shot through a crowded area beat the unsighted Charles Price in Tividale's goal.

Five minutes later Tividale were level when a driven free-kick by Mitchell Bothfeld was met by Mark Smith and his firm header gave Leek keeper Ben Chapman no chance.

In the last 15 minutes of the half, Leek enjoyed the majority of the possession but the Tividale defence stood firm.

Leek seized control and Dan Shelley's shot grazed the outside of Price's post before the keeper saved with his legs from Ashley Jackson.

Tividale came back before the break and David Bellis hit a shot that skimmed the crossbar.

Leek were again on top in the second half and on 75 minutes Jordan Johnson capitalised on indecision in the home defence to turn the ball into the net for the winner.

Slam of Darts back for 2015

THE Grand Slam of Darts will be back in the Black Country for the ninth straight year in 2015.

Wolverhampton Civic Hall will stage the tournament from November 7-15 after the Professional Darts Corporation confirmed its calendar for next year. The event will carry world ranking points for the first time.

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford, Thursday, September 25.

FA CUP CAN HELP YELTZ FIND FORM

HALESOWEN Town are in FA Cup action on Saturday in the second qualifying round.

They head to East Midlands Counties League side Ellistown and Ibstock United for the first-ever meeting between the two sides.

The Leicestershire team have already come through three rounds. Their best result was knocking out Hereford United, who have pulled off some big FA Cup shocks themselves down the years.

Hopefully, Yeltz will be able to shake off their poor league form to make progress.

At the weekend, Halesowen slumped to their fourth loss in six games as they lost 1-0 at Ashton United.

Foul

Halesowen made two changes to the side as Neil Mackenzie and Joe Hull took the places of Elliott Turner and Danny Bragoli in the starting 11.

Yeltz thought they had taken an early lead through a header from Iyseden Christie, but it was disallowed as he fouled the goalkeeper.

Chris Lait went close on the 15-minute mark. He cut into the penalty area and hit a shot which was saved.

Halesowen pressed for the lead with Robert Thompson-Brown having two chances in quick succession.

At the start of the second half, Christie's header just flew wide of the right hand post for Yeltz and Tom Tonks blasted the ball over the bar a minute later.

But Ashton's substitute Kayde Coppin terrorised

Football

the Halesowen defence and after eight minutes on the field, he latched on to a long ball, ran past Kris Green and smashed the ball off the inside of the post and into the net from a tight angle.

Martin Pilkington nearly doubled United's lead just a minute later.

He chipped the ball over Matt Sargeant, but it hit the post.

The Yeltz tried to get the equaliser as Joe Hull's header just went over the bar and Lait's shot ended up going wide.

Halesowen's final chance came in the dying seconds of the game.

Ben Haseley managed to get above his marker and head the ball towards goal but it skimmed the outside of the post.

Yeltz will be disappointed not to have picked up at least a point as they still sit in the relegation zone.

Afterwards, manager John Hill said: "We just can't buy a goal and it feels like we get punished for every mistake we make."

"We will continue to work hard and strengthen the side."

Rain stops Cradley Heathens in their tracks



Cradley's Danny Phillips and Matt Williamson tackle a rain-soaked Monmore track during the semi-final

CRADLEY saw their National League play-off semi-final tie with Mildenhall washed out at Wolverhampton's Monmore Green.

The in-form Heathens hosted their arch rivals desperate to claim another big win in pursuit of a place in the Grand Final. The rain put paid to their plans as it forced Tuesday night's meeting to be abandoned after

just seven races, with Cradley 26-16 in front. The tie has provisionally been re-arranged for next Tuesday.

Cradley got off to a perfect start as Nathan Greaves overcame a stuck throttle to hold his nerve and win heat one in fine style.

He was joined at the front by birthday boy Steve Worrall before reserve duo Matt Williamson and Danny

Phillips combined for a second Cradley 5-1 as they made an excellent start.

There were several falls as riders from both sides struggled to cope with slippery conditions before the meeting was called to a halt.

Heathens will now turn their attention to a trip to Coventry in the second leg of their Knockout Cup semi-final tomorrow night.

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54-56 Lyde Green, Halesowen, West Midlands B63 2PG
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